

Home Away From Home

by Niyanta Pancholi

As a newly married busy working girl back home in India, my first Minnesota winter was harsher than the cold especially because I had left the warmth of India's busy social life, friends and family. First 2 years went by in trying to understand my feelings of love and hate for Minnesota and the weather here. But after having my first child in this city I started having more friends. I think having a child makes us more mature and gives us strength of adaptability to all situations. I made lot of friends, all very educated like me. Most were stay at home moms taking care of kids.

In this group of friends we started sharing about our experiences here and also memories from back home. This led us to form a group of ladies and kids to conduct events related to our Indian culture. We started having events regularly and I really enjoyed being a part of it, because as a human being you always want to be around like-minded people and this group did that for me. In India I had lot of friends but now I was so busy with this group of friends that I did not get time to call back home but when i did I had so many things to share with my family about my life here and that was very satisfying. We ladies were so talented in managing these events by ourselves without any help from our husbands. That balancing really helped me when I started working full time. I felt that event management, finance planning and getting work done in a team with people of different mindsets gave me more managerial skills and better understanding of people's perspectives. All of this really helped me gel in this atmosphere. I started feeling I have my own family here away from my home. My kids also adapted to this weather and social life here so it's easier now for me to think this as my home town.

Accepting change is a way of life and yes it's hard to adapt to new things. But I have conquered that fear and started loving this city and reached a point where I do not want to move from this place and from my new family and friends.