

May 20, 2023

Brian & Malisa Ellis – Serving with Cru in Boston

# Change Boston



## Shalini's Responsibility

Shalini is the oldest of 13 kids. That means she carries the weight and responsibility for her family as the first to travel from India to America for college. But Shalini feels another weight and responsibility: for the students on her campus to know Jesus.

We met Shalini on Instagram last August. Jasmine, one of our student leaders at a nearby campus, got on our Cru Instagram and reached out to Shalini congratulating her on getting into MCPHS (the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences). They struck up an online friendship, and then an in-person one.

During Covid, Shalini was visiting her grandmother in another province of India, and because of government lockdowns, this 16-year-old was stuck 14 hours away from home for 8 months! Thankfully, she eventually made it home safely, but this experience has given her an incredible resiliency on campus. As we shared the gospel, it was clear Shalini had a personal relationship with Jesus and she was actually a "Missionary Kid."

Shalini started inviting her friends to our Monday Cru meetings, and in January, when we asked her to be a key volunteer, she was an immediate "Yes." She started co-leading a small group with a student from a nearby campus, so she got training and development each week as a small group leader. She also joined Malisa's first-year discipleship group at a nearby college that she can walk to (isn't it so cool that there are so many colleges in Boston so close to each other?). She and her friend Maria have been leading worship at our weekly Monday Cru meetings and continue to invite friends.

Even at the end of the semester, they were both still inviting new students to join us.

We're hopeful that next fall, these upcoming sophomores, led by Shalini, will grow in their relationship with God, and get exposure to sharing the gospel and reaching freshmen on their campus.

Shalini feels the weight and responsibility of wanting students on her campus to know Jesus. But of course, she's not alone. Jesus is the one who bears the weight of drawing people to Himself. And Shalini isn't alone because you're praying for her.

Thanks so much for the vital part you play in making it possible for us to open wide the doors for Shalini and her friends. Thanks for helping these students reach their friends for Christ.

Loving our adventurous Lord,

*Brian & Malisa*

### Would you pray:

- For Shalini and her friends from MCPHS – for profound summers and a movement to grow at MCPHS
- For our family as we lead a team back to the Middle East this summer – for open doors to the gospel
- For our kids – Sydney, Eliza, and Genevieve to experience the nearness of Jesus as we spend 6 weeks together in the Middle East. We leave on Memorial Day.



*Shalini 3<sup>rd</sup> from left with glasses and her friends from MCPHS are such an answer to prayer!*



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