



NEWS FROM HOINA HOMES OF THE INDIAN NATION

PO Box 87, St. Charles, Missouri 63302 • www.hoina.org • December 2016

Happy Children at the Holiday

by Richard Curry
HOINA Board Member

I've returned to the place that I've grown very fond of. HOINA has become a second home to me. When I am at home in the U.S., I think of the children and the staff constantly. There is a power here that draws one in, that makes one feel that he or she belongs.

I remember an incident from several years ago that made a strong impression on me. We were, at that time, trying to install satellite internet. Two men were assembling the dish atop the girls' home. One of the young men walked over to the edge of the roof and stood looking out at the campus. From that spot one can see the entire grounds including the boys' home away on the hill. I walked over and stood beside him.

Without looking at me he gestured to include it all, the children on the playgrounds, the buildings and the trees and flowering shrubs, and said, "This makes my heart feel happy." Most people who come to HOINA experience



Even our littlest helpers lend a hand on the HOINA campus.

similar feelings. Thus, his comment was not unusual. However, his tone was not one of joy but, of sorrow. I've often wondered about that incident. What was he feeling? Did he long for his life to include such peace, such beauty? He sighed and slowly turned back to working on the dish. I have never seen him again, but I've often wondered about him, what that mixture of joy and sorrow said about his life.

Though I don't know about that young man, I do know about our HOINA children—they are happy. And they are particularly happy at this time of the year because they are already practicing for the Christmas program and dreaming (I am sure) about Christmas presents. Those of you who have children know of the excited

anticipation that children have when it's finally time to open their presents. Well, multiply that many times since we have two hundred children opening presents—what

continued on page 2

Surya's Smile Denies Life's Tragedy



Since 11-year-old Puram Surya came to live at HOINA in June of this year, he has been awaiting a sponsor.

Happy Children

continued from page 1

energy, what joy, what noise! The children are asked to give us a list of what they would like to receive, and the staff chooses one or two items from the list to include in their gift box. The box will hold small gifts that the children enjoy like bangles or earrings for the girls, or a toy car for the younger boys. Also included might be crayons, pencils, small note pads, ribbons and, of course candy, lots of candy. These gifts are boxed and wrapped in colorful paper with each child's name on a box. You can

Could that person be you? Or might you consider sponsoring a child in the name of someone else as a Christmas gift? Our volunteers in Pennsylvania will send a letter and a photo to the person(s) of your choice, letting them know that you have helped this boy in honor of them. Or perhaps your club or class is looking for a service project for the holidays. We'd love to assign you Surya to sponsor.

P. Surya's is a tragic tale, his having been a full orphan since his father passed away in July 2013. Sadly, he lost his mother just six months prior

to that. Both parents died from HIV/AIDS. The villagers where he grew up helped his sister to get married and continue her life after the parents' passing. However, that left Surya abandoned in his village. Finally, the townspeople felt pity for him and asked if HOINA would admit him. Of course, we could not turn him away. We hope you cannot either.

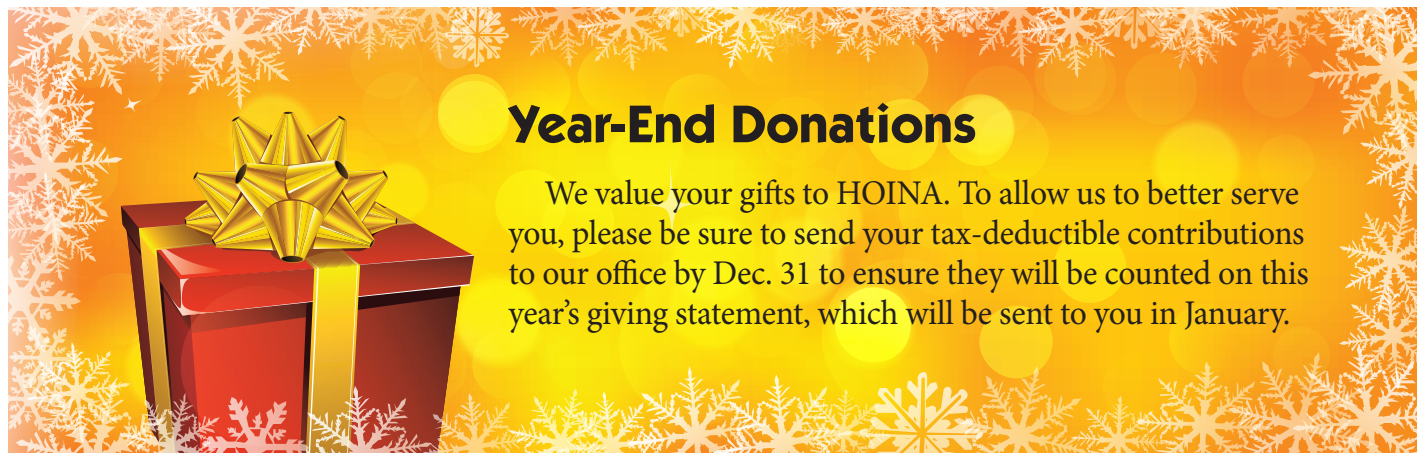
imagine the anticipation as each name is slowly called (too slowly for the excited children), a hundred girls' names and a hundred boys' names! Also, all of the children get new outfits made by a local tailor to the child's measurements. (One does not go to Walmart for ready-made clothes in India.)

The gifts are a delight to the children, but they come after the Christmas celebration which includes performances created by the children, their skits, songs and dances. Hours of rehearsal go into the performances by the older children,

but the younger ones, though more spontaneous perhaps, are no less enthusiastic. Our children love to perform, and they love to watch the performances of others. A halting song by one of the preschoolers is cheered as thunderously as a well rehearsed group dance.

Your monthly gift of \$35 will provide him with an education, food, clothing, a home to live in, and his medical care. Just send your first gift to us with your coupon on the back page.

Christmas is a joyous time at HOINA, as it should be. And it is because of you that we are able to celebrate with such gifts. Your help at Christmas time has always been greatly appreciated. Without your contributions Christmas gifting would be impossible. Thank you.



Year-End Donations

We value your gifts to HOINA. To allow us to better serve you, please be sure to send your tax-deductible contributions to our office by Dec. 31 to ensure they will be counted on this year's giving statement, which will be sent to you in January.

Digging Ditches To Continue Communication

by Richard Curry

When I arrived around the middle of October, HOINA had been without internet or phone service for over two months. To communicate with the U.S. one had to drive into Visakhapatnam to one of the large hotels to use their internet service. As road construction often cuts our lines, we tackled this repair ourselves. We ordered heavy duty internet/telephone cable and set about digging a 130 meter trench from the road to the girls' home as shown in the picture. Take note of the last person in

that photo. That is Timmy our "jack of all trades." He is using a Western -styled long handled shovel. He jumps into the air and comes down on the heel of the shovel driving it into the earth. Despite this unusual use of the tool, I feel as though I have made progress in introducing better digging techniques.

The traditional shovels used here require a person to bend to ground level to dig into the earth. The second picture shows such a digging tool. It is painful to watch people dig that way, so I had two shovels sent here from the U.S. two years ago. This is

the first they have been used, and several of the men had to agree that they accomplished the task faster and with more ease than their traditional shovel. Progress!

I hope that the new cable provides similar success for many years. We inserted that cable into piping for protection and had the telephone company technicians make the connections from their line to our building. Once we purchased a new modem, we had internet and telephone service again. It is a relief knowing that we can communicate with friends and family back home.



Author Richard Curry caught Timmy mid-air in the photo above.

HOINA is a 501(c)3, tax-exempt organization with international headquarters located at:
HOINA
PO Box 87
Saint Charles, MO 63302-0087 U.S.A.

This newsletter is published to inform our readers of the work HOINA does among the handicapped and abandoned in India.

Edited by Letti L. Becker
Layout by Eberly Designs
Printing by Prestige Color

Send address changes to:
HOINA
PO Box 636
Brownstown, PA 17508-0636 U.S.A.
717.355.9494
Toll-free: 877.99.HOINA (4.6462)
Email address: hoina@frontiernet.net
Website: www.hoina.org

The official registration and financial information of Homes of the Indian Nation (HOINA) may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling, 1.717.787.1057. Registration does not imply endorsement.

HOINA Sponsor and Contribution Coupon



Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Account Number (on your mailing label): _____

Mail coupon to: **HOINA**
PO Box 636
Brownstown, PA 17508-0636



December 2016

- Please use this gift of \$ _____ toward the Christmas Fund.
- Please use this gift of \$ _____ toward the HOINA Education Fund or where most needed.
- I want to Sponsor a HOINA boy / girl (circle one). Here is my first monthly gift of \$35.
- This gift of \$ _____ is in honor / memory of _____
(circle one)
(please give name and address of person): _____

(please print clearly)



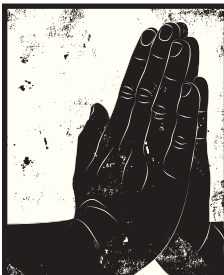
All donations are tax deductible.



HOINA
PO Box 636
Brownstown, PA 17508-0636

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #910
Lancaster, PA



Please Pray for Papa

By the time you receive this newsletter, we hope HOINA's Papa Bruce will have safely arrived in India. He'll be happy to share Christmas with the HOINA children. While there, he will be doing staff development and other training. He plans to stay into January when his wife, Darlene "Mom" Large arrives.

Be a Blessing This Christmas

We appreciate our donors who contribute to HOINA's Christmas fund to provide a gift for their child or for one without a sponsor. Would you consider helping us to provide a celebration for all of our children and staff? An honorary gift is easier than shopping for and wrapping a gift for a loved one and helps our children and staff enjoy the holidays, too!

Consider sending a gift with the coupon above—any amount would be a blessing. We are humbled and grateful for your generosity.