



# NEWS FROM HOINA HOMES OF THE INDIAN NATION

PO Box 87, St. Charles, Missouri 63302 • [www.hoina.org](http://www.hoina.org) • February 2016

## Student-made Murals Stand Out



by Dr. David Fyfe  
HOINA Board Member and Professor  
at York College of Pennsylvania

I still remember my first visit to HOINA in the summer of 2004 as if it were yesterday. Each time I return to HOINA I feel at home. This year I have brought another group of students from York College of Pennsylvania. Many of their stories will be featured in the upcoming newsletters. With each visit to HOINA, I find that the campus has many changes and new faces (this time the new vocational school on the property); however, the

thing that remains constant is how welcome the children and staff make me feel. I often refer to the campus as the “HOINA bubble” because it really is such a special place in all of India.

One thing that makes the campus so special is the tile mosaics that decorate most of the buildings around the campus, which has always been colorful. (I remember painting rainbow colors on all the doorways and windows and iron bars for several years!) One of the ways that Mom has continued to brighten the campus is by having some of the children and staff learn how to create beautiful

mosaics. Mom explained that when she was 21 years old, she and her new husband, “Papa” Bruce, went to Venezuela where she first saw murals on the sides of the buildings. She learned from Italian workmen how to create the murals and brought this knowledge to India where she first taught S. Chandran and some other boys to create this type of artwork. Over the years they have continued to pass down the lessons to the younger boys and girls. Today, the campus has hundreds of murals small and large throughout the campus.

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# Murals

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The hallway off the restroom block where mirrors greet students preparing for their day.

Mom recalls that one year she went to see the Republic Day celebrations in Delhi where she was so excited to be sitting not far from the Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi who was her hero. It was this experience that was

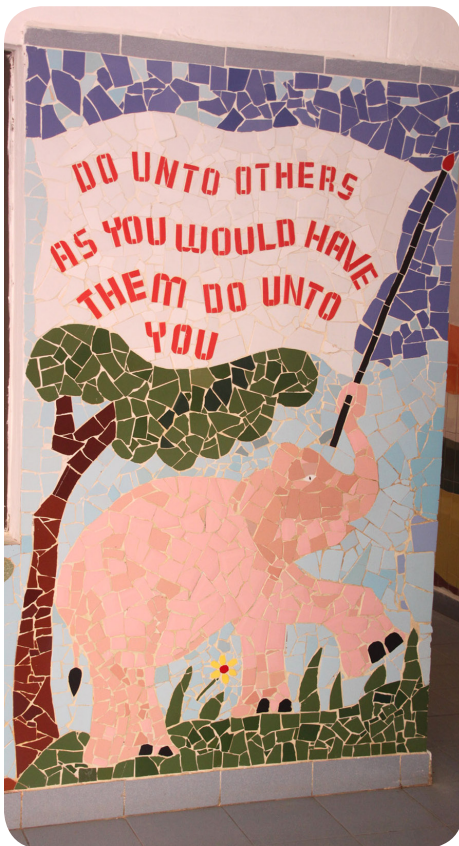
the inspiration for the large mural at the boys home that states: “YOU CAN MARCH IN THE PARADE, YOU CAN LEAD THE PARADE OR YOU CAN WATCH THE PARADE OF LIFE GO BY.” She wanted the children to think about where they wanted to be in life. Many have chosen to march in the parade of life, and some of

our HOINA children have grown to become leaders.

The mural in the girls’ home with two angels and Christmas trees provides information about what the word HOINA means in languages throughout the world. Interestingly, many are relevant to the work that HOINA does here in India.

I remember when what is now the girls’ home was under construction Mom wanted the children to have a part in making the building their own. Each of the boys created a self-portrait, and those were placed on each side of the columns in the courtyard in tiles. I still recognize some of the murals of boys who are now young men. When the girls’ home was moved to this campus, the boys were moved to a new home, which was constructed on the back side of the property. Fittingly, the girls each created their self-portraits that now grace the courtyard of that building.

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The HOINA girls diligently studying in our courtyard, surrounded by colorful murals.

## Murals

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Around both kitchens murals show both the English and Telegu alphabets with images of words that begin with those letters. Meanwhile, murals near the sinks remind the children to “wash hands” as well.

Some of my favorite mosaics are found near the dormitories as portraits with mirrors for heads allow the boys and girls to comb their hair in the morning. Their smiles add to the delight of the art. I also love all of the good moral lessons that are inscribed throughout the campus in

bright colors reminding the children to “Love your neighbor” or “Do good, see good, be good.” Mom motivates her children with expressions such as “Hip hip hooray - you are special!”

While there are too many mosaics to include in this newsletter, I hope that you find the photos as inspirational as I do. I look forward to seeing more added in the coming months and years as HOINA continues to be a place that cares for orphaned, destitute, and handicapped children of India.

## Remembrances



Thank you for your memorial and honorary gifts. When requesting a gift to be listed in someone's memory or honor, please include the name and address of the individual or family so we can send them an acknowledgment.

### *In Honor of*

Darlene and Bruce Large  
Gautam Ranji  
Deborah Strohmayer

### *In Memory of*

William Buehler  
Ben Burkholder  
Margaret Johnson  
Pat & Connie Marinetti  
Edna Martin  
Carmella Mazzeo  
George & Esther Moshos  
Ella Mae Murphy  
Linda Novak  
Susan Nuckols (2)  
T.V. & Sarojini Parthasarathy  
Parke E. Plasterer  
Sampath Ranji (2)  
Jean L. Shotz  
Gary Tennis  
Nina Traina  
Victor F. Weaver



Our children are grateful for the gifts they received this Christmas thanks to the many of you who donated to our Christmas fund. All of them received things they could use and enjoy, and our staff members were given Christmas bonuses as well. While we haven't always been able to give them extra pay, you, our donors, have shared enough with us this year so that we were able to bless them. Thank you very much for your generosity.

HOINA is a 501(c)3, tax-exempt organization with international headquarters located at:  
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This newsletter is published to inform our readers of the work HOINA does among the handicapped and abandoned in India.

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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.

## Annual Statements

You should have received your annual giving statement from HOINA. If you did not, please call our office at 717.355.9494.

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February 2016

- I want to Sponsor a HOINA boy / girl (circle one). Here is my first monthly gift of \$35.
- Please use this gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ toward the HOINA General Fund.
- Please use this gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ toward the vocational school project.
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## Orphan at HOINA Needs Your Help

Lenka Mohan Gandhi was born on July 26, 2002, and is now 13. He has been with us since last summer and, still, he awaits a sponsor. Would you be that person? A \$35 gift each month will provide all we need for his care and education.

Mohan Gandhi's father was a truck driver. He fell ill in 2013, was taken to the hospital, and diagnosed with HIV. He died that September. As her husband did not tell her he was infected with HIV, Mohan Gandhi's mother was stricken by the disease as well. After she died last June, a relative brought Mohan Gandhi to HOINA for admission.

Mohan Gandhi's favorite color is pink. He likes to play cricket with the other boys and would like to be an army officer when he is older.

