



NEWS FROM HOINA HOMES OF THE INDIAN NATION

PO Box 87, St. Charles, Missouri 63302 • www.hoina.org • February 2018

Three Kings Day Celebrations



Yasawani got new sneakers, Yasoda displays her new necklace, and Rahini jumps out of her chair to show off her new watch.

by David Fyfe
HOINA Vice President

One of my favorite traditions at HOINA in January is the celebration of Three Kings Day on January 6 when the HOINA children are given gifts to celebrate the day that the Three Wise Men brought gifts for baby Jesus. Thanks to the generous support from our donors, each year we are able to give each child a shoe box filled with items that includes; toothbrushes, soaps, pens, pencils, erasers, powders, lip balm, razors, socks, and of course some chocolates and other assorted candies. This year the shoe boxes were completely full and bulging at the seams as they were wrapped in shiny wrapping papers. In addition to the shoe boxes, the staff spends time with each child to ask what “special gift” they would like to have. Each of these gifts is also wrapped and given to the children



Santhosh (holding razor) with Tirumala Rao, Chandu and Joseph.

with cake and ice cream to celebrate the special event in our chapel. This year many of the older children asked for travel bags or what they refer to as “college bags,” as well as watches and sneakers/shoes. The younger children asked for games, cricket bats, badminton racquets, kitchen sets (so cute to see the kindergarteners making dahl and rice in their new kitchens!), and of course there were a couple of small girls who asked for “Barbie” dolls.

The kids are all very excited throughout the day in anticipation of the gift program that evening. For many of our new HOINA students, this is their first time ever getting a Christmas gift. Our older HOINA students are extremely grateful each year for the gifts that they receive. This year two of our youngest HOINA children impressed me the most—our 5-year-old boy named Sagar and a 4-year-old girl named Yasawani. Both received a pair of sneakers as their special gift. When

Three Kings continued

Sagar's sneakers did not fit quite right Yasawani (pictured on page one and to the right) gave him her new shoes and said that she would take the ones that did not fit! These kids, who have had extremely difficult pasts and no material possessions to speak of, model for me the type of behavior that I would like to see throughout the world. I am so proud of all of our HOINA children as they study hard and take care of each other. I can't wait to see them become adults and ambassadors for the work and values that HOINA instills in them.



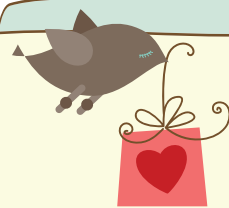
Pavan is all smiles after opening presents (above). Yasawani (above right) holds her presents with great anticipation.



TWO "Barbie" dolls! Lidya is overjoyed.



Ramesh loves his new watch and volleyball.



Remembrances

Thank you to the many donors who chose to give memorial and honorary gifts from October to December 2017. 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

Wayne Olson
Gautam Ranji

Deborah Strohmayer
Helen Victor

In Memory of

Sal Allumallu
Earl & Elsie Brubaker
Margaret Johnson
William & Mary Kopp
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TV and Sarajini Parasarathy
Parke E. Plasterer
Sampath Ranji (2)
Eugene & Corinne Schaefer
Dale & Mary Swinton
Gary Tennis
Terri Terhune (4)
Nina Traina



HOINA Girls Empowered at Visak Pink Run

by David Fyfe

On January 7 about 40 HOINA girls and 11 York College students woke early (3 am) to drive into Visakhapatnam to participate in the annual “Pink Run” that empowers women in India to have more active lifestyles. We were invited to participate by Tabitha, one of our Trustees in India, who helped organize the race. About 3000 participants ran either 3K, 5K, 10K, or 21K races on the road next to the beach.

The HOINA girls were excited and came to the bus in their white race T-shirts that read “I am a Pink Sister” and sang songs on the hour-long journey to the city. Before the race all of the participants warmed up with some yoga and Zumba and then made their way to the starting line. One of our HOINA girls, Swathi, finished in second place for the 3K race and won a small purse as a prize. A large roar of excitement rose when they announced her name on the winners platform!

After the race we ate breakfast at the beach and then went to church in the city. On the way home we stopped by the beach for the girls to play in the ocean. One by one they each handed me their white race T-shirts as to not get them wet. They sprinted into the water! It was so much fun to see them laughing and smiling and jumping into the waves. We stayed for almost an hour as the girls laughed and played in the water before returning to the HOINA campus. Mid-afternoon naps were needed but almost all of the girls were back up and ready to play with their York College sisters throughout the evening.



Top: HOINA girls and York College students gather before the Pink Run event.

Middle: Participants and spectators cheer as awards are being presented after the event.

Right: Ramanamma is all smiles as she participates in the Pink Run event.



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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Feb 2018

Please use this gift of \$ _____ toward the HOINA General 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)

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This Valentine Needs You!

Sweet little P. Jyothi was born on June 5, 2008. Mr. Oddodu and Mrs. Gunnamma married in 1995. Both of them used to collect paper and plastic to recycle from street garbage. This poor couple were both alcoholics. They had four children before the father died in 2007. His wife died in 2015 after scraping together a life for her and her children. Fortunately, the eldest child in the family married before both parents passed away. He and his new wife were willing to take the middle two siblings into their home, but this sister was admitted to HOINA on the recommendation of a local pastor.

Jyothi has been living at HOINA since last June. Your gift of \$35 per month will provide her food and clothing, shelter, schooling, and medical care. Won't you send some love her way this month?

