



NEWS FROM HOINA HOMES OF THE INDIAN NATION

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

Newlyweds Catch HOINA Fever

by Richard Curry,
HOINA Board Member

Two days after the Rotarians I wrote about last month left our campus, I was again called upon to host visitors. These visitors, however, were not strangers to me. Allow me to explain. David Kilburn was one of my students some fifteen or so years ago at Meadville Senior High School in Pennsylvania. He is one of many students with whom I have remained in contact over the years. Indeed, on several occasions while traveling to or from India I have visited him in Germany where he resides. David recently married a young lady from Germany, Bettina Lindemann. Bettina and David had apartments in the same building and both were fully furnished. Because of that they decided that they did not need gifts from friends and family, so in their wedding invitations they stated that they would prefer gifts of money—half of which would be donated to HOINA and the other half would help pay for a trip to India to see the orphanage which David had been helping to support for several years. The HOINA staff were amazed at such a gift—which was substantial by the way. The children, especially the girls, were enthralled. They constructed



Bettina surrounded by HOINA girls.

signs and decorated the guest house with many bouquets of flowers and colorful balloons. I don't think royalty would have been received with more enthusiasm than were they. The newlyweds were as delighted as the children and staff.

David and Bettina became instant successes on the playground and in the evening tutoring sessions. David's flair for teaching held him in good stead with the students, particularly those

who had difficulties with math (which they call "maths" here) and science. On the way to the airport, both David and Bettina commented on how quickly the time had passed. They both agreed that their experiences here would never be forgotten, but since much of those experiences are heart driven, like the Rotarians, they had difficulty defining how they felt. I expect to see both of them back at HOINA some day.

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Newlyweds Visit HOINA

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In the evenings after the children went to bed, David, Bettina, and I would sit on the roof of the guest house where an occasional breeze would flutter by. We talked about what had been completed that day. David was particularly excited about two boys who asked for his help with their “maths” assignment. The two boys, Ram and Jagadish were in what we would call middle school. However, they were studying math that he had not learned until his 11th and 12th years in high school. He was deeply impressed that they had a conceptual understanding of such advanced mathematics.

Our talks on the roof always reverted to HOINA—what had been achieved and what should be accomplished for its continued success. Both he and Bettina observed that we should attempt to get more people to visit the campus. Even though they financially supported HOINA before coming here,



David and Bettina pose with their host Richard Curry (right).

they were doing that because of my recommendation. Their experiences here have now taken them to a higher level of appreciation and enthusiasm. They are no longer supporting HOINA for me; they are now supporting it for Ram and Jagadish, for the laughter from one hundred children on the playground, for the enthusiastic babble of the children as they board the school bus in the morning and return in late afternoon, for the potential these wonderful children have because they were ripped from horrific living



David with one of our HOINA children.

conditions and brought to this secure haven called HOINA. I concur with those sentiments.

And so to you, my readers, I invite you to come to HOINA. I promise that during your visit here you will be changed. Anyone who spends time at this idyllic place returns home with a new appreciation for life and love. The exuberance that the children demonstrate for both is contagious on these 23 acres. Frankly, this contagion no one wants to cure.



Our HOINA children treat one another as their most loyal siblings. Here you can see everyone’s enthusiasm as they cheer for a game of musical chairs.

HOINA Builds a New School

by B. Sunil, HOINA Student

Twenty years ago, our HOINA Mom wanted to build a vocational school. She had no funds and no land. The main concept was to teach the villager and tribals who had no job and are uneducated persons. We would hire the persons who had talent and skills to teach the classes. We give the students hope and teach them professional courses like tailoring, plumbing, cooking, carpentry, electrical skills, and how to do mosaic tile designs like Mom learned to do in 1957 in Caracas, Venezuela, when she was young married lady.

Penn State University sent us their honor students for 12 or more years. In one of those groups there was one student studying architecture. Her name was Sarah Bednarcik. She designed for that school building. Now Mom is having that placed on our campus. It is on a big land and is a two-floored big building. Our HOINA students are doing murals in tile for the building. It is very nice. Mom does not have funds to do everything, but she is praying and searching for professional teachers for that school.

In this school we will charge some fees for the learners and with that

funds we will use for the schools operation. Our hope is that there are persons who are interested in these courses to learn. If they will utilize this opportunity, they do good job and settle in their life. We give them a well professional training to make the better way for their careers.



Since our first photo in June, 2014, you've seen this vocational school progress, albeit slowly at times. Weather delays and supply shortages have not defeated us. The building now nears completion, awaiting windows, doors, and floors. We continue to collect funds to purchase supplies for the school. If you would like to contribute to this project, please return the coupon on page 4 with your gift or include a comment when you make your gift online.



Annual Statements

You should receive your annual giving statement from our HOINA office in Brownstown, PA, by the end of January. If yours does not arrive or if you spot an error, please alert Amy in our office at 877.994.6462 or 717.355.9494 immediately so she can take care of it for you. Thank you for your generous support of our work. We couldn't do it without you!

Letters from Home

HOINA President Darlene Large spends three months at a stretch in India, twice each year. To stave off homesickness, she would love to get letters from home. Please put only letters in your envelope as the mail does not always arrive unopened. Email service in our village can be unreliable, so old fashioned snail mail letters are a sure blessing. She will be there until mid-March.

The HOINA Campus
Kothasunkarapalem
Balighattam B.O.
Kothavalasa Mandal
Vizianagaram- 535183
A.P.
India

HOINA is a 501(c)3, tax-exempt organization with international headquarters located at:
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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 Freedom-Graphics

Send address changes to:
HOINA
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January 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.

This gift of \$ _____ is in honor / memory of
(circle one)

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All donations are tax deductible.



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In Wake of Tragic Past, Hope for a Future

We share with you this month a young man, whose family life has been nothing short of tragic. L. Siva Kumar's parents were married in 2002 and worked as laborers in the fields. He was born to them on June 25, 2003. When he was only five years old, his father was unexplainedly paralyzed, and the family moved in with grandparents. The grandfather soon died. Siva Kumar's mother then committed suicide in 2011 by taking poison. In 2012 his grandmother died, and nothing has helped his father regain use of his legs. This summer a neighbor suggested that Siva Kumar be brought to HOINA, where he has a chance for a brighter future. He sees himself serving on the police force some day. As any other active 12-year-old boy, he likes running games, like the Indian game, kabadi. Of course, it's no surprise that he is a cricket fan, too.

