



NEWS FROM
HOINA
HOMES OF THE INDIAN NATION

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HOINA is a Beautiful Place



Board Member Richard Curry playing jacks with the girls.

by David Kilburn, HOINA Board Member

HOINA is a beautiful place, a stunning campus filled with beautifully bubbling and smiling faces! And I don't just mean the children. The love for HOINA, the campus and the children is obvious and abundant from the kitchen

staff, the maintenance team, the security personnel, camp management, and even first-time visitors!

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I found myself drawn to HOINA, exactly one year after my wife and I enjoyed our honeymoon with the children. The children were calling: “Come, let’s play! Let us refresh your soul!” And indeed they did. I arrived early Saturday afternoon and was greeted by the children though I must admit that they were more anxious for my wife, Bettina, than of my arrival. Alas and alack, she did not join this trip so we proceeded to catch up, chat, and even play a little Frisbee before the girls dragged Richard Curry into another game of jacks.

The next day I was told that a local bank, HSBC, would be visiting from Vizag. Little did I expect the parade of smiling people coming to play with the children. What a sight to take in—these strangers and their outpouring of love and fun with children they had no connection to. I was told that the entourage was “only about 200 people” and that the bank had “about 8,000 employees,” so it was an honor for each of them to be selected to visit our campus. I was encouraged to hear such a message. It did not however, go without a gentle and friendly reminder, that all that they were experiencing was due solely on donations – and that they would be welcomed to support HOINA as well.

Later that evening I indulged in a Bible study with Anand and Bujji. Refreshing passages on a Sunday evening from Acts 20:28: “Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God.”

The cherry on top of that experience was again meeting with the boys and discussing current studies, interests, and experiences. I was pleasantly surprised when they



That evening Darlene Large called a meeting with Richard, the campus management and myself. Richard and I took the opportunity to enjoy the ride to the meeting on two of the bicycles that were on campus.

all recited the advice I had given them only one year ago: show up, look up and speak up! Admittedly, many of them needed a bit of beckoning on the “speak up” part, but in the end we were all laughing and enjoying discussing their future plans, what they want to study, and where

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A view across the HOINA campus.

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they want to live. Had I been bequeathed a magic wand or been able to summon some sort of miracle however, I would have been sure to conjure up some ice cream of those life-hungry and eager eyes.

The next day I was treated with a tour of the new training facility accompanied by Darlene, Richard, Anand, and Bujji—and what a site it is. The pure size of the facility leaves one to daydream of all of the future hustle and bustle that will be a daily occurrence in those halls and classrooms.

That afternoon I took a nap, preparing for a red-eye flight taking me to Japan that evening and had to start fresh the next day with clients. While I dozed, I dreamed of the distinct chatter, squeaking and squealing that comes with a collection of young students; and I saw our HOINA children running the halls of our very own school. I was

again inspired for the awesome opportunity that what we, as shepherds of this flock, have to provide, shape and enliven a world so very foreign to our own.

As my time at HOINA drew to a close, I was at odds as I was soulfully refreshed, yet yearning for more time, more interaction, and more work to come. Upon returning to our apartment in Essen, Germany, I spoke with my wife about all the good that comes from the orphanage, all the opportunity. As a typical husband and unbeknownst to myself, I was only further putting myself “in the dog house” as she is also drawn to the organization, the children, and the campus and wasn’t pleased that she didn’t join this trip! But 2017 has just begun with lots of new and exciting opportunities that we all have in our daily lives and in the awesome opportunity that it is to support HOINA.

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January 2017

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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!

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