



NEWS FROM HOINA HOMES OF THE INDIAN NATION

PO Box 87, St. Charles, Missouri 63302 • www.hoina.org • June 2014

Compassion, Mercy & Faith: India Trip Report

By Darlene Large, HOINA President

I want to thank each of you who took time from your busy schedules to pray for me and the HOINA kids and staff this past February, March, and April while I was overseas for my semi-annual trip. As this one was an unusually challenging trip, your prayers were powerful. On the top of my list of things to do was hiring new houseparents for the boys' home. We found a young couple in their thirties. Paul is a fine fit. He holds his large vehicle driving license and is able to drive our school buses. He is already loved by the staff and our boys. His wife and mother are lovely additions to our team. Thankfully, his two boys are also acclimating nicely.

One of the special things that we did this spring was to take a grandma named Chinnama to several hospitals for eye surgery. Chinnama comes to the free lunch program we offer on our campus for seniors. At 95 years old, she is blind in one eye and had a cataract on the other. We finally found a hospital to give her help. They removed her cataract, and then we brought her home to recuperate with us in our girls' home for the next two weeks. She will be getting new glasses soon and seeing the bright smiles of our HOINA girls to cheer her.

The children enjoyed her stories of WWII days when large airplanes flew low over our village and campus. She told them about the Freedom Fighters and about Mahatma Gandhi and his fight for India to be a democracy and for their people to be free. Because someone had given us a gift to be used for the poor and needy outside of HOINA, Chinnama had her surgery, medicine, and a new dress. We also purchased dresses for five ladies, who were in the hospital ward with Chinnama. When I purchased the dresses and told the



HOINA President Darlene Large with Chinnama after eye surgery.

sales clerk why we were buying them, she cut the price in half. These little blessings help stretch the funds we are given.

The next blessing we enjoyed came when a young man came to thank me for trying to help him. Back on July 11, 2011, my staff and I came home from a day of shopping in the nearby city. We nearly crashed into a large truck, which was parked on the road, without lights or any markers. We went to a nearby police station

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to report it. Before anything could be done to repair the situation, a young teen on a motorcycle crashed into the back of the truck and sustained brain and other bodily injuries. He was in the hospital for months recuperating. Later, he learned that I had tried to help. He was so moved by this small act that he came to thank me for trying and brought me a gift of oranges. He felt God had sent me to warn others. He told me that now he goes to different churches to give his testimony for Christ.

I spent a significant portion of my trip handling some of our government paperwork, which needed to be renewed or finalized. In 1978 we had our Registration Certificate from Tamil Nadu State (T.N.). In 2009, when we relocated our girls from the Chennai area in T.N. to Andhra Pradesh State (A.P.), we applied for the new registration in A.P. We waited year after year. After many trips to government offices and phone calls to various individuals, we received a call from the Child Welfare Director to come receive our certificate. Additionally, HOINA's tax exemption certificate had expired due to a mistake by our accountant's office. Our office manager



Dikshitha

and I took the train down to Chennai on two occasions to solve the problem. Finally, the new tax exemption certificate was sent to us. While this work may seem mundane to you readers, it is monumentally important. We are grateful for the pleasant help of the commissioner, director, and their staff to accomplish it.

Another unexpected and blessed meeting occurred in Chennai. I was shopping for our boys' clothing.

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One of the nicest days I had on this trip was when we distributed a new blanket to each HOINA child and to each of the senior citizens whom we feed. Each recipient was very grateful.

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Since our teens are growing so fast, I went to a wholesale area to save some money when I bought their shirts. On the way back to the hotel, I asked my rickshaw driver to stop. I saw a teenaged boy begging on the sidewalk. I walked the two blocks back to where he sat along the curb. He had a dazzling smile. His English was excellent. However, instead of arms, he had one finger growing out of each shoulder. We talked a few minutes. He told me his name

is Babu. I promised to pray for him. I could think of only questions after I met him—How does he eat and drink water? Or clean himself with those two little fingers? How can he do anything without arms and hands? Every trip to India teaches me more about compassion, mercy, and most of all, faith. Please join me and remember Babu in your prayers.

When I came home last year, I knew we would need to fence in the 50 acres of farm land that we bought. We have begun that process, and our contractor is doing a great job. We are also walling in our present campus near Kothavalesa outside of Visakhapatnam, where all of our children are living. Our boys promised to whitewash the walls during their summer holidays.

In February we had our first meeting with HOINA's graduates, the HOINA Tigers, whom you read about



The foundation for the vocational school is being dug.

in our April issue. Some are nurses, teachers, soldiers, policemen, grown-ups holding masters' degrees and even a PhD. After graduating over 4000 HOINA boys and girls in nearly 40 years, we hope our Tigers will ensure the continuation of the HOINA work in India.

We are now embarking on a new journey. We want to build a vocational school. We dug the foundation and are now putting in the reinforced steel columns. Since it is quite a story, I'll save it to tell in another issue.

Keep praying, dear friends and family. Your prayers are causing miracles to happen for the children and others HOINA is able to reach.

May God bless you and your loved ones,

Darlene

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.
Edited by Letti L. Becker
Layout by Eberly Designs, Mount Joy, PA.
Printing by Freedom-Graphics, E-town, PA.

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: admin@hoina.org

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, toll-free in PA, 1.800.732.0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

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June 2014

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Surprise Dad with a Sponsorship for Father's Day



Koda Siva

Is your dad hard to buy for? Does he have a generous heart? Would he like to be honored on Father's Day with a gift sponsorship? You can support a HOINA child in his name!

Siva's parents were married in 2004, and they had three children. Siva was born on October 30, 2005. His father worked as a fisherman, but spent his earnings on alcohol. Siva's mother died in June 2012 from a brain disease after which the children were sent to live with a relative. The pastor at Union Chapel in Vizak referred them to HOINA, where they are now getting their educations and good care.

Would you like to have this sweet smile on your refrigerator to remind you to pray for Siva and his siblings? Your monthly donation of \$30 will cover the cost of his food, clothing, shelter, medical care and schooling. Please send your first donation with the coupon above. We thank you for your generosity!