



NEWS FROM HOINA HOMES OF THE INDIAN NATION

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Visiting HOINA is Always a Special Blessing

by Roz Vinci, HOINA Friend

What a blessing to return to India for the sixth time! Of course, visiting HOINA is always a special blessing. Much has changed since I was there three years ago. The chapel is completed, and the children's voices rise up and sing God's glory in it. Roads are now paved, and the boys and girls ride their bicycles on those roads every chance they get. They're so polite in sharing the bikes. When the next one wants to ride, they simply tag out and the switch is made. No arguing over whether "It's not your turn yet" or "You're too little." The boys and girls love each other so deeply and sweetly that they're more than happy to help one another in any way. Another large addition to the campus is the Vocational School. It stands two stories tall! I was surprised to see its size. It's not yet completed, but will be soon. When I was there, Darlene ("Mom") was instructing the staff on which colors to paint the rooms. As she does, she adds her artistic flare and was choosing primary paint colors for classroom accent walls. HOINA is the cheeriest place that I know, and going to HOINA is one of my dearest pleasures in life.

But, going to India is not without its perils. On one trip to the city, Darlene was buying little chairs for the toddlers and when she was returning to the SUV, she was cornered by wild dogs. Thankfully, our driver stepped in and made a clear path through some parked motorcycles so she could get away. The wild dog population is growing and getting more aggressive. One of the HOINA pet dogs was attacked by three wild dogs and injured badly. She was rushed to the vet and patched up. Honey really is quite a dog. Recently,

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Art Show to Feature HOINA Photos



HOINA is pleased to announce that Victoria Azzaro, one of the York College students pictured in our May newsletter, is hosting a photography exhibit about India, featuring the children of HOINA. The event, "Child of the World," will be held at The Palette & The Page, 120 East Main Street, Elkton, MD, 21921. Sponsoring the B&W professional photography exhibit are the owners of The Palette & The Page, a woman-owned gallery that specializes in promoting art, music, and books by local artists, musicians, and writers. More information about The Palette & The Page can be found at their website: www.thepaletteandthepage.com/our-story

While the show runs from June 28-July 29, the show's opening is slated for Friday, July 1, when Tori will be available to answer questions about her photography, her trip, and HOINA. Ms. Azzaro was quoted as saying, "I have a passion for photography, and I have a passion for these kids." We invite one and all to attend to get a more in-depth view of India through some of her dearest children.

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and on other occasions, she has killed cobras on campus. She has endeared herself to everyone. I, myself, had a hair-raising encounter with a poisonous spider the size of my hand. On another trip to the city, Darlene was making a stop at the post office. As she approached, a snake came out of the gutter toward her! Brave Darlene simply stepped over it and continued on with her business. Over the years, Darlene has been besieged by deadly illness, a close call with a viper, and life-threatening traffic. She keeps her eye to God and dutifully does her work while God has protected His faithful servant.

Darlene has also been blessed with endless ideas to teach and entertain the children. While I was there she decided to teach the girls the art of embroidery. She called it a skill that one can use from age 6 to age 100. What we did was first teach all the women staff. This had a twofold purpose. It was to teach them the skill so that they could help the girls should they need it, but it also got the boys' home and girls' home staff women together so that they could get to know each other better. We had a great time. Most of us picked up the skill quickly. I admit I needed a little more practice than the others, but I got there. Darlene managed to find all



Sandhya shows off the results of her embroidery lesson (right), and poses with Roz (above).



Girls waiting patiently for treats.

sorts of colored threads and even found embroidery hoops. Shopping in India can be daunting, but I never met anyone with more perseverance than Darlene. The embroidery assignment was to take pillow covers (pillowcases) and draw the girl's name and a flowery design. The place was abuzz with girls walking around with their projects, finding a cool place perhaps to work under the mango grove. It really brought out their creativity, and everyone had fun.

I can go on and on. One story that I'd like to say is about my last night. The girls put on a program for me of dancing, drama skits, and singing. I thoroughly enjoyed the program and was dutifully impressed and happy with their efforts. Afterward, Anand, the general manager, told them to line up and wish "Auntie" (what they call me) a "Happy Journey." So, the line formed,

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An Honorary Gift for Father's Day

Don't know what to give your dad this Father's Day? Please consider an honorary sponsorship. Gather your siblings to pool your funds to support a child who would otherwise not have hope for her future, like Ganji Kota Veni (at right).

Her father was a laborer who worked for a daily wage while her mother was a stay-at-home mom. While our feature child was born on August 24, 1998, her father died of an unknown disease just a month later. After the death of her husband, Kota Veni's mother found a job as a laborer to support the family. After a few years, Kota Veni's mother developed heart disease that made her unable to continue working. Seeing her mother's condition, Kota Veni discontinued her studies (while in 9th grade) and found a job as a laborer to support her mother. In July of 2014, her mother passed away. After the death of her mother, Kota Veni's grandparents stepped in to take care of her. However, the couple was too old to provide an education for Kota Veni so they approached HOINA in August, 2014.

When you choose to donate to HOINA, we'll let your father know that because of his love and care for **you**, another child is thriving at HOINA. If you can't afford a monthly sponsorship of \$35 per month, you can always make a one-time donation. Our office staff will alert your honorary recipient of the gift you make to HOINA. We'll also include his name in our listing in a future HOINA newsletter. Please send your gift with the completed coupon on page 4. Be sure that all information is completely legible. Thank you for making a difference in a child's life.



Remembrances

Thank you to the many donors who chose to give memorial and honorary gifts from January through April 2016. 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.

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June 2016

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Special Blessing

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and each girl came to me and said, "Happy Journey." I thanked them one by one and hugged each, and perhaps said a few words. Some expressed their love or how much they would miss me. It was very touching. It was also very hot. I was beginning to perspire with all the activity greeting the 100 girls. I started to think to myself, "This line is never ending." Then, my "daughter" (sponsee) leaned over and whispered in my ear, "Mummy, they're getting back in line!" The girl in front of me heard her and then held up four fingers!

She'd been back in line four times to get hugs from me. She was about 7 years old. I declared her the winner and she grinned from ear to ear. We all had a good laugh. Yet, I was profoundly moved by their outpouring of love for me.

HOINA is thriving. It's growing. The children are growing, and we have new graduates from high school and college. Everyone is healthy. Quite evidently, God blesses HOINA, for which I thank Him.