



NEWS FROM HOINA HOMES OF THE INDIAN NATION

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

New Point System Encourages Angelic Behavior



This group of “best behaving” HOINA girls enjoyed a pani puri street food reward in February.

*by Alexis
HOINA House Mother*

We recently started a discipline program for the kids in which points are assigned to each child. The kids can lose or gain points based on their behavior. The primary reason for starting this is to encourage good behavior and to provide a structure where the children know exactly what

their expectations are. We have a list of 10 simple rules, which include: respecting others, listening well, working hard, etc. Each child starts with four points and gains points each week that they break less than four rules. Every time a child breaks a rule, they lose a point. Additionally, we have one Student of the Week that we honor at the end of each week.

The staff and children will go around expressing what great qualities they have seen in that child. Children can earn additional points by becoming the Student of the Week, going above and beyond their expectations, and getting A grades at school. At the end of the month, the girl or girls with the highest number of points become the “HOINA Angel of the Month.”

Celebrating Palm Sunday and Easter at HOINA



Aaron sharing on Sunday



Lalitha, Rohini, and S. Kumari pose with their palms



A joyful celebration in Sunday school



A Palm Sunday parade



Beth sharing the Easter story with the girls

Abandoned and Awaiting Rescue



A common story is that little boys are more welcome in village families than little girls. A son carries on the family name; a daughter is an expense to raise. A son is a strong back to work in the family; a daughter must be protected from harm. Could that be, in part, why the story that follows happened? Or was it just a matter of grief?

To lose one's mother in childbirth is a tragedy. To then be abandoned by your last surviving family member, your own father, is dreadful.

Mr. And Mrs. Sundar Rao married in the year of 2006. After four years they were blessed with a baby girl named Geetika. Tragically, while the baby survived, her mother died just an hour after the delivery. Distraught, her father managed to care for her for one month before he abandoned her. Fortunately, Geetika's uncle looked after the baby. He is as a daily labourer at an auto yard. He and his wife have two sons who were in high school, so starting over raising someone else's daughter was a difficult task. One of his friends knew about HOINA and suggested he place Geetika with us.

Geetika is one of the children we took last summer who still has no sponsor. Although she has lost her mother and been abandoned by her father, you can make a huge difference in her life. Your \$35 each month will provide food, clothing, schooling, and medical care for this sweet 8-year-old. Knowing she has a sponsor would help her know she is not alone. Won't you consider helping by completing the coupon on page four and returning it with your first tax-deductible gift?

Angelic Behavior continued

We have a special prize for the HOINA Angel and girls with the top three highest amount of points. Then, we make a cut-off, say "10 points," and those who earned at least that many can join in on the prize of the month.

For the month of February, we had six girls in the top three spots. These girls got to go into the city one night and have chicken biryani (their favorite chicken-rice dish.) We had around 40 girls who earned at least 10 points for February who got to go to the town and enjoy Pani Puri, a type of Indian snack food in which a potato mixture is placed inside a crunchy shell and dipped in spicy sauce. They had a blast!

For the month of March, we told the girls that they would need at least 15 points to join in on the fun. At the end of March, we had 16 girls who tied for the first, second and third place, and 68 of our 79 girls who earned at least 15 points! When the month is over, the points reset to four, and it's a fresh chance for everyone.

All of the caretakers work together to keep track of points, which are updated on a board for all the girls to see each day. The prizes will vary each month. One month



Dinner out at Paradise Biryani for best behaving students in March

we may go to the beach, while another we may take the girls out for a movie, or have an ice-cream night in.

We use the same system for all ages. In February, our top winners were Sharmila, Shalini, Latha, Pavithra, and Navy. They ranged in age from five years to 20!

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Brownstown, PA 17508-0636



June 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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HOINA
PO Box 636
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HOINA boys freeze for the camera with their palm branches



Easter fun: an egg relay