



NEWS FROM HOINA HOMES OF THE INDIAN NATION

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Strangers Turned Friends – A Pleasant Surprise

by Brie Dadich
Student at York College
of Pennsylvania

I was fortunate enough to be one of the York College students to visit HOINA over my winter break this year. I have never traveled outside of North America, and I can say with confidence that I did not know what to expect on my trip at all. My first impression of HOINA was that I couldn't believe how clean and beautiful the campus was, but what I found throughout my time there was even more impressive. I have never in my 22 years of life been somewhere as filled with such selfless love and caring as the HOINA campus is. Strangers quickly became family over our short two and a half week stay at the campus.

Being surrounded by so many girls while at the girls' home didn't phase me as I have two younger sisters and know what it's like to be in a house full of women. Girls squealing with joy as they left the home for school, braiding each other's hair every morning, and giving one another henna hand decorations (or "cone"



Harshvardhan, Joseph and Madhu watching a HOINA cricket match.

as they call it) are not unusual sights on the campus.

The strangers-turned-friends who surprised me the most were the boys. Growing up in a family of women, I never knew the joys of having a brother. Thankfully, now I can say I do. The boys were just as welcoming as the girls, running to the bridge that separated the homes to greet us whenever they saw us approaching. We were always swiftly taken to the playground to play a number

of games! I, a generally unathletic person, was actually quite nervous about playtime with the boys. I can barely walk without tripping over my shoes, much less catch a cricket ball!

A younger group of boys, Harsha, Chandu, Shiva, and Kathika, all began teaching me cricket during play time. I don't think they realized what a challenge this would be, but they definitely kept trying to teach me! No matter how many times I missed the ball, the boys kept telling

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me I was doing great. Chandu especially kept saying, “See the ball! Be the ball!” They’re a very encouraging bunch.

I remember first meeting this group during one of our first times visiting the boys for their study hour. Sitting next to Harsha and Shiva, I did not know what to say and was afraid for a short time that there was too much of a language barrier to be able to connect with them on a personal level. However, the boys seemed to start warming up to me, and before I knew it, Harsha was showing me drawings from his notebook. As an art student, I was so excited he shared this with me! Over the next few days, he’d show me more drawings he had completed in his free time. The other boys took time to show me all they knew about India, including the national flag, the different states, and all the exports they had to study for their social studies class.

I quickly realized how strong the bond I was making with the kids was becoming. Almost anytime I was at the boys’ home, Harsha was either saving a seat for me or standing next to me. He always made sure I got to bat a



Cricket, soccer. It doesn’t matter to Moses (kicking the ball) and David Shepherd, as long as they can play ball.

couple times during cricket. I noticed Shiva didn’t tend to play cricket so much as watch the other boys, so we bonded while we watched the more intermediate players.

Chandu made sure that whoever was pitching for me took it easy on me, and he wrote me the sweetest letter before we left HOINA. Two things he wrote stood out to me; he asked how my family was doing, then corrected it to “our” family and said that we are all family now. He also wrote, “Whenever you are sad, just imagine yourself as the moon and all the stars around you are HOINA brothers and sisters.”

Needless to say, it was an emotional day having to say goodbye to all of the kids. I’ve never made such strong bonds with so many people over a span of just two weeks. The HOINA kids are some of the most kind, caring, and giving children, and I believe that they probably taught me much more than I taught them. They love with their full hearts and put their brothers and sisters before themselves. They make sure that everyone is included, and I can’t imagine anyone ever having to feel lonely in such a welcoming place. I hope to be able to give back to HOINA and support the kids and their dreams, and I definitely wish to return to my new brothers and sisters soon.



Left to right: Chandu Charan, Teja and Harshavardhan with Brie Dadich of York College.

HOINA is a 501(c)3, tax-exempt organization with international headquarters located at:
HOINA
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This newsletter is published to inform our readers of the work HOINA does among the handicapped and abandoned in India.

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The official registration and financial information of Homes of the Indian Nation (HOINA) may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling, 1.717.787.1057. Registration does not imply endorsement.

Siblings Need Sponsors

Two siblings joined our HOINA family in June of last year. They are still awaiting sponsorship. The cost to provide their food, clothing, housing, school fees, and medical care for one month is only \$35 for one of these dear semi-orphans. Eating out for a family of four can often cost that much. Would you be willing to forgo one night's entertainment each month to provide care for a fatherless child? If so, please complete the coupon on the back page and return it to our office in Brownstown, PA.

Big sister Pushpa was born on July 9, 2006. Her father worked in a scrap shop. In 2007 he started suffering from the effects of being HIV positive while his wife was pregnant with Satish. When the children's father died in 2008, she and the children moved in with her parents. Pushpa's mother is currently HIV positive and cannot work, so she



approached HOINA and asked us to admit her children. Pushpa's favorite color is white. She likes elephants and would like to be an engineer when she is older.

Born on May 22, 2007, Satish's favorite color is red. He likes tigers and he, too, would like to be an engineer when he is older.

Using the Cyber Highway

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India's children. Since April 2015, our Instagram account has gained over 200 followers, and our Twitter account has gained over 300. Most impressively though, our Facebook page has gained over 5,000 followers!

Twitter is a website that allows you to post up to 140 characters, so each post (or "tweet" as they are called) is short and to the point. Instagram is a site where each post must be a picture. You have the option to add a caption of any length below the picture to get the attention of your audience. Facebook is a more complex site that allows you to create a business page where you can post almost anything and allows others to post on your page as well. These forms of social media allow endless possibilities for expansion.

For those of you who are not involved in social media, you may be wondering what is the significance of these numbers? When someone follows our HOINA page, they see the different things that we post there. Whether that is photos of the children playing, blurbs about our students' successes, updates on what is happening around campus, or links to donate, all of our "followers" (who have chosen to follow our pages) see it. In addition, our various accounts provide instant access to people anywhere in the world who have the same social media pages. For example, we have 5,000+ people from the United States, India, Ireland, Myanmar, Germany, Romania, Italy, Saudi Arabia, etc. who

see our posts daily. This allows us to increase our support base to more than just the countries in which we operate. Our increased social media presence has already added some sponsors from all over the world.

Not only do we use our social media platform to send out information, but it also allows us to communicate and create relationships with our sponsors in various countries. They can send messages through our pages or even call us using the internet, which works as effectively as if they were sending text messages or making regular phone calls.

We are very excited about the possibilities that social media holds for HOINA's future. We plan on increasing our follower base on all of our pages. We also plan on creating more social media platforms for different experiences. We have talked about creating something like a SnapChat account which would almost be like a daily feed of what is happening on campus. Our main interest is to create a way for sponsors to have more contact with their children. Social media could allow us to send videos, pictures, messages, etc. to sponsors from the children and vice versa in the future. For now, our main focus is sustaining what we have and growing from there.

What would you, our HOINA supporters, want to see from HOINA in terms of social media or information through technology? Are there any forms of social media that you think HOINA should try? Please message us through any of our existing social media pages, or call our office with any suggestions.

HOINA Sponsor and Contribution Coupon

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Account Number (on your mailing label): _____

Mail coupon to: **HOINA**
PO Box 636
Brownstown, PA 17508-0636



March 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)
(please give name and address of person): _____

(please print clearly)

All donations are tax deductible.



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Using the Cyber Highway to Reach Across the Globe

by Caitlyn Carmody
HOINA Board Member

Social media has taken the world by storm in the last decade. Sites like Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter have become popular among all nations, ages, and types of people globally as a means of instantaneous interaction. As you may have seen, HOINA has increased our social media presence in the past year in hopes of using these tools to create more meaningful connections with people and hopefully to gain awareness of HOINA's work with

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Spread the Word With Social Media

Look to our formal website www.hoina.org for more information on our children and sponsorship.



<https://www.facebook.com/pages/HOINA/180642794022>



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