



NEWS FROM HOINA HOMES OF THE INDIAN NATION

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Vocational School Dedicated on Founder's Day

by Darlene Large
HOINA President

My dream to build a vocational school began more than 20 years ago. I saw education as a way to help students from a life of unemployment and poverty. This year, on March 31, we dedicated that school. As you can see from the photos, the building and work turned out beautifully. While this project took us three years to complete, it was certainly worth the wait through weather delays and supply shortages. Now we ask for your prayers that we might find the right principal for the Nesbitt-Ranji school.

Arthur Nesbitt, who gave us the first gift for the project, spurred me to complete it. He donated many art supplies to us for the children's projects during his lifetime. Gautam Ranji visited us many times with his mother to encourage the children in their studies. As a pharmacist he brought us medicines and advised me on medical issues. We are pleased to dedicate the building in both of these men's honor.



HOINA's vocational school.

Years ago, Sarah Bednarcik visited HOINA as part of a Schreyer Honors College group from The Pennsylvania State University. An architectural engineering student, Sarah volunteered to design our school as her senior project. Her mentor and our friend, Don Leon, designed the children's homes many years ago. We love their designs and are proud of Sarah's work on the school.

Overseeing this project from afar was a challenge many months. However, HOINA students painted and helped clean construction debris, directed by our board member Richard Curry.



We are grateful to Mr. Srinivas Kumar (Bujji) for overseeing our many staff members who gave their time after-hours to help us paint and complete the building and host this splendid dedication ceremony.

School Dedication continued

[Editor's Note: At the Vocational School Dedication, we were honored to hear from many prestigious attendees. Because of space, we can include only limited quotes for you to read. However, they testify to the goodness of God over many years of HOINA history.]

Mr. Roberts, Project Director of the Andhra Pradesh Department of Women Development & Child Welfare

"This is a blessed place. It is a wonderful service. God chose her [Mom] to stay with you, and God chose you, also. God gave you a wonderful opportunity to study well, to reach a good position in the future. Already many children of HOINA are in good positions. For example, on this dais, Dr. Krishna has finished his PhD, and he received the Junior Scientist Award from our government. One of your own girls may go to Australia to compete in the Olympics. Another is studying to be a doctor. Many others are now in good positions. So everyone here should have a goal, 'Definitely, I want to be like "this" when I grow up.'

"I am in charge of three districts in our state [A.P.] and am in charge of 400,000 children. This home is a good opportunity to reach your goal. You won't get this opportunity anywhere. Getting admission into HOINA is very difficult because they prefer orphans. God gave a great heart to Mom. Whenever HOINA needs help from me, I am ready to help. I will bring other officers to HOINA.



Murals flank the lobby entrance to the school.

However we can help HOINA through our government channels, we will do it.

"Two months ago, all the office had a meeting, where our boss, the District Magistrate, had asked us, 'Is there anyone in this group who has visited HOINA?' I raised my hand, and another officer did likewise. Then the District Magistrate said, 'You should all visit and see HOINA for yourselves.' HOINA is a role model for all. Its service should continue forever. It should be a model forever. I know Mom's heart is always here. You always think that Mom is here. Keep yourselves always healthy and happy, giving help to others. Have a good goal and reach high levels. I pray every day for all of you. Once again, I thank Mom and God."

Dr. Krishna, HOINA graduate and HOINA Indian Board Trustee

(pictured right)

"I came to HOINA while I was six years old. I was living under a thatched roof then. Sometimes when the rains came, the water came inside the hut, but you have here a peaceful, pollution-free environment. And Mom gave. Does Mom give us good love here? [To which the children listening replied, 'Yes! Yes!'] Actually, HOINA should be in Bapatla, but Mom was thinking about the future, so she brought the homes here....

Mom always has good thoughts about our future."



Mr. K.K. Murthy, Advocate [lawyer]

"I have been told by some other elders that this organization should run forever. And for that aim, what should we do? Mom's desire is for this work to continue, so how can we help? What can we do? So I want to encourage you. In her age, she has done what she can do. Now it is our time to do something."

Founder's Day Celebration



Founder's Day Celebration honoring President Darlene Large (Mom's) 82nd birthday!

Below, Karate Teacher, P. Srinivasa Raju (in blue), watches as HOINA students Harshavardhan, Prasad, and Nanditha (from left) break flaming roofing tiles as part of the karate demonstration on Founder's Day.



Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies



Dr. Solomon (left) looks on while Mr. Roberts cuts the ribbon to the main gate. Ribbon cutting ceremonies were held during the dedication for several of the more than two dozen rooms in the vocation school.

When we were first planning a school, we bought the sewing machines (seen below), which we will use for the tailoring department. We have hired a tailoring teacher, and this department is ready to go forward.



Police Inspector Mr. Ramanayya, with his wife and family looking on, dedicates one of the vocational training rooms. (middle row, left)

Guests tour one of the carpentry rooms. (bottom left)

School Dedication

continued

Mr. Giri, Advocate [lawyer]

[We] “have an opportunity to help HOINA. We have not done that much like Mom has, but at least we have done something to help HOINA if we do this. That is my humble request.”

Left to right: Mr. Srinivas Kumar (Bujji), HOINA Campus Manager, greets HOINA's esteemed guests: Lawyers Mr. K.K. Murthy and Mr. Giri, and Police Inspector Ramanayya.



Police Inspector, Mr. Ramanayya

“In HOINA ... you can see everywhere great art [mosaic murals]. Mom came to the Police Station and told me, ‘We will design this art with the broken tiles.’ She planned to do the work at night because she didn’t want to be in the way in the daytime when my office was busy. [Over a school holiday,] she worked on the mural with the HOINA boys and staff from 10 p.m. until midnight. It is like a wonder.

“To do such a work, she has a commitment. And she has a dedication and is a hard worker. Every five minutes she will think, ‘What can I do here better? What can I do there better?’ Each minute she wants to do something.

“With all Mom sacrifices, her desire for you is that you study well and think positively. Her positive attitude led this home to this level.”

Mrs. Tabitha, Banking Center Employee, HOINA Indian Board Trustee (pictured below with Mr. Roberts seated behind)

“Can we all stand for one minute in respect? I feel very proud to be a part of the HOINA family.... When you come down to the HOINA campus, you forget about everything else.”



Alumni Room, pictured at right. Our alumni, the HOINA Tigers, use this room for informal gatherings and alumni meetings.



Dr. Solomon, HOINA Indian Board Trustee, HOINA friend for more than 30 years

“On Mom’s first visit to India in 1975, without knowing better, she drank water from a bore well. After drinking the water, she became sick and almost died. By faith and God’s grace, she was saved. She is praying for us every day, and we are praying to God for her to live long and give life to many children. That is my wish.”

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