



NEWS FROM HOINA HOMES OF THE INDIAN NATION

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Different Faces of Service

by Sam Citrano
York College Student

Hello, my name is Sam Citrano, and I am a junior nursing major at York College of Pennsylvania (YCP). During our winter break my class and I spent time at HOINA getting to know the children and the workers. *What does it mean to do service?* was one of the questions our class at York College discussed before heading to India. After all, our class is titled International Service Learning. Though we discussed service in class, most of us weren't quite sure what kind of service we would be doing while at HOINA. However, we found that during our time at HOINA we provided all different kinds of service to the children and staff of HOINA. My favorite service activity was playing and talking with the children. I felt this was time well spent because relationship-building is very rewarding.

One day we got to provide a special treat to some of the children: we got to take them to the movie theater to see the new movie *Middle Class Boy*. This memorable moment was a special treat for the kids who had



Sam and seat mate Pavin are excited for the movie to start!

received good grades on their report cards. Everyone was so excited during the drive and while waiting to get into the theater. I sat next to a young boy named Pavan, who is very quiet and shy. We talked about whether he had been to the movies before, and I asked if he knew what the movie was

about. The movie was in Telugu, so I had no idea what was going on, but that didn't matter because I mainly enjoyed watching his reactions to the movie. During the intermission, Pavan answered questions I had about the story and what was happening in the movie and helped me understand

Different Faces of Service continued

what was going on. During intermission we got popcorn to share with the children. I shared with Pavan and was very surprised that after a few handfuls he said, “Aka (sister), you eat.” The reason I was surprised at his consideration in making sure that I was eating enough of the popcorn was because in America the kids wouldn’t want to share such a small amount; they would want it all for themselves. When the movie was finished, he explained what happened during the second half. We sat together on the ride back to HOINA, and I continued to talk to him about his school, his hobbies, and his ambitions.

After bonding at the movie theater, Pavan and I became buddies for the rest of my time at HOINA. We hung out together whenever I went to the boys’ home during free time. Later on during our time at HOINA, we taught at the children’s school. This amazing experience allowed us the fun of meeting their school friends. After the YCP students finished teaching, Pavan and I met up with each other and I asked him about his favorite school subjects, especially science.

Pavan asked if I would play football (soccer) with him when he got back from school. That evening, I made my way over to the boy’s home after school. Pavan was excited to show me the football he got on All Kings Day.



We started by kicking the ball back and forth to each other. When some other boys joined in, we all played pass together. It was so funny because the boys would tell me when to do a high kick (punt the ball in the air) and when to do a low kick (normal kick). The boys were so supportive of all my kicks even if they were bad. We played football until they had to go wash up before dinner. I could tell all the kids we played with were so happy to play football, even though we were only passing the ball back and forth and not playing the actual game.

Our last day at HOINA was bittersweet. The goodbye ceremonies we held were very joyful.

The ceremony included kids singing and dancing for us, and we also prepared a song to sing for them. Sadly, after the program we had to say our goodbyes to everyone. Since our class had gotten so close with all the children and staff during our two weeks at HOINA, it was especially hard to say goodbye. Saying goodbye to Pavan was hardest of all.

Though I thought I was providing service to the children at HOINA, I learned that they ended up providing service to me by spending time befriending me and showing me love. My time at HOINA has been a life-changing experience I will never forget.

HOINA is a 501(c)3, tax-exempt organization with international headquarters located at:

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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.

HOINA Girls Learn Self-Defense



A couple of months ago, we asked the girls if they would be interested in learning self-defense, to which almost all of them replied with an emphatic Yes! For over a month now, Alexis, the HOINA House Mother, has been teaching the girls basic self-defense they can use to be prepared in any situation. The self-defense course is based on Krav Maga, an Israeli martial arts training. Krav Maga is practical in nature. The girls are learning how to remain safe in a variety of situations and are having a great time doing it. Our hope is that the girls will have the confidence they need to handle any situation.



Student Participates in National Competition



Esther Joy was selected in January to compete in the National Competition for Throw Ball. (Throw Ball is an Indian sport somewhat similar to volleyball.) She, and a team of students from her school, Jindal, went to Mysore (a city in the state Karnataka) and represented the Andhra Pradesh State, competing against other states.

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Future Scientist Needs a Sponsor

Married in 2005, B. Yerri Naidu's parents were blessed by his arrival on January 2, 2007. His father was a truck driver before his alcoholism caused his unfortunate death in 2011. After his passing, Mrs. Lakshmi worked as a daily laborer to provide for her family. Due to financial problems, she did not seek medical treatment for an infection in her throat, which took her life last summer. An uncle came to know about HOINA and asked us to admit Yerri Naidu, who is now 11 years old.

Can you provide a future for him to study science? Your \$35 each month will provide food, clothing, a warm bed, education, and medical care for Yerri Naidu. Please help by returning the coupon above with your first gift.

