



NEWS FROM HOINA HOMES OF THE INDIAN NATION

PO Box 87, St. Charles, Missouri 63302 • www.hoina.org • November 2017

Blessings from Sorrows

by Darlene Large
HOINA President

As we near the end of 2017, I can say this has been a totally different year for me. Normally, I take two trips to India, each one for three months. This year I only went for one month because of my husband's death. Until this year, I have always said that 1949 was the worst year of my life because on October 25 my father was killed by a drunk driver. After his passing, I felt unsafe, afraid, and alone. My dad was my hero. Later in my life, I came to appreciate the valley I had been forced to walk because it made me better able to understand the HOINA kids. They, too, have felt unsafe and afraid, alone and helpless. I remember how

important it was when friends like Ruth Ackerman and Elizabeth DiBattista reached out to give me a hug and when Rabbi Kaelter and Pastor Jim Curry took time to be mentors to me as a lonely teenager. I vowed to find a way to do something to help teens who were in my shoes.

In August this year, I found myself in India again. As I sat helping one of our best HOINA boys, he said, "Mom, I need to talk to you." I assured him I would try to help in whatever way I could. He went on to say, "Mom, I feel so alone. Did you ever feel like this?"

"Yes," I replied, "I have felt the same, and I think everyone does at some time in their lives." I saw the sadness in his face. "Tell me your story," I encouraged.



Whenever it rains heavily on our property, our canal fills with water--and fish! Our boys catch them handily and have provided the house with fish for a lovely curry on those evenings. Good work, fellas!

We sat down on my porch, and he began. "A few years ago my mother was struggling. She needed money so she took my brother out of middle school and put him to work in a shop. He loved school, and he wanted to continue so this made him very sad. But my mother needed him to help support us. You see, my mother is an alcoholic. Do you know how to help an alcoholic, Mom?"

"When my dad died, my grandmother told my Ama [mother] to stay home and take care of me and my brother. My grandmother sold fruits along the mountain road near our village. When grandma died, my Ama couldn't earn enough money so she became depressed and put my brother out to work. A pastor found HOINA

continued on page 2

Blessings continued from page 1

for me. That's how I came here. You know, Mom, there are many HOINA boys who were unwanted by their families. We are so glad you came across the world. It is really wonderful that our American uncles and aunts have reached across the ocean to help us. I hope someday we can help them in some way." His eyes filled with tears as he struggled to express his gratitude.

This Thanksgiving, we count our blessings because you, dear reader, are one of those blessings. Your gift to HOINA's children provides food, clothing, a safe place to sleep, and medicine. Most of all they know that HOINA homes are a place where God's love offers them peace. Sometimes, ours is the first and only love and care they have ever known.

When I think of HOINA, I am comforted by a recent phone call. Our general manager called to tell me a new inspector of police came to visit us and to ask for a bed for one night. This bed was for a young teenaged girl whom he and his constable found on the streets. She was homeless. Since this inspector was new to his post and our area, he had never been on the HOINA campus before. When he took the young lady to the police station, he asked several constables where was a good place to take her so that she would be safe that night. Constable after constable told him the same message: "There is only one safe home; it is called HOINA."

"How can I go there now? It is 2 a.m."

"You can go there, Sir. Ask for Mom."

When the inspector came to our gate, the watchman called upstairs to Anand, our general manager. When



Catching fish also means cleaning them. Sometimes, it's the boys who get cleaned! Have hose, will play!

Anand came down, he greeted the inspector warmly and encouraged him to feel at home. Anand said to him, "Sir, this is God's house, and homeless children are always welcome."

The inspector looked at him and asked, "Is Mom here? My constables asked me to speak to her."

Anand smiled again, "No, Sir, Mom is in America. She was here, but she had to go home because her son is very sick. But she would want me to say, 'Welcome.' We will go to the girls' home and introduce you to our staff. Mom feels no child should ever be left to suffer on the streets. Too much evil lives out there. Mom cares about all the abandoned children and always says she wishes HOINA were larger to be able to rescue them—all of them."

Anand spoke the truth when he told the inspector that. I remember when I was once prayed for at my church. The pastor on that Easter

Sunday prayed that God would anoint me to care for widows and orphans. I was shocked. He had no idea the calling I had from God to do the HOINA work or that I had begun it. However, God has ways to let us know what He wants us to do for Him. I was honored by that confirmation and leading.

He has work for each of us to do. He just needs us to volunteer. To those of you who have volunteered, God bless you. I am honored to be making this world a bit brighter alongside of you. HOINA is a special place. We have heard many times that people feel God's peace upon our campus when they enter our gates.

May God bless each of you with His peace that is beyond understanding. As you enjoy your Thanksgiving meal this month, know that our children pray for you every day, and so do I.

Grateful always,

Darlene

Girls Win at State Competition



HOINA sent a team of girls to the Andhra Pradesh State Handball Competition this year. Pictured above is the winning team, comprised of HOINA girls left to right (Back row): Satyawathi, Esther, and Madhavi and (Front row): Kumari, Rajyalakshmi, and Rajini.

Child Sponsorships Make Great Gifts!



This June, HOINA took in a new class of children in need of a safe home. We would like you to consider sponsoring L. Durga Prasad, who is nine years old. His parents married on 22 April 2002. They had two children. Sadly, Mr. Venkinaidu was an alcoholic, who neglected his family. One day this father abandoned his home and family and never returned. His wife went to stay with her parents since she was struggling economically and could not afford to feed or clothe her son. Mr. Roberts, from the Women & Child Welfare Department in our state recommended this boy to us.

Your gift of \$35 per month will provide good food and care for this young man to give him a fighting chance at a decent life. Perhaps you'd consider sponsoring a child in honor of one of your loved ones this Christmas? Complete the coupon on the next page with your recipient's name and address so we can acknowledge your gift.

Remembrances



Thank you to the many donors who gave memorial and honorary gifts in the past few months. 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.

In Honor of

Wayne Olson
Sue Reese
Dirk Large
Adrian Wagner
Rohini

In Memory of

Margaret Johnson
Bob Teague
Bruce Large (3)
Peggy Ann Hahn
Indira
Linda Campitelle Henderson

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

HOINA
PO Box 87
Saint Charles, MO 63302-0087 U.S.A.

This newsletter is published to inform our readers of the work HOINA does among the handicapped and abandoned in India.

Edited by Letti L. Becker
Layout by Eberly Designs
Printing by Prestige Color

Send address changes to:

HOINA
PO Box 636,
Brownstown, PA 17508-0636 U.S.A.
717.355.9494

Toll-free: 877.99.HOINA (4.6462)
Email address: hoina@frontiernet.net
Website: www.hoina.org

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 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



Nov 2017

Please use this gift of \$ _____ toward the HOINA Christmas 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)

(please give name and address of person): _____

(please print clearly)



All donations are tax deductible.



HOINA
PO Box 636
Brownstown, PA 17508-0636

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #910
Lancaster, PA

Fill the Christmas Fund

We are at that time of year when it is time to refill our Christmas fund. If you send your monetary gift to our office soon, you will help us plan accordingly when deciding on staff bonuses and what we can buy the HOINA children. Our staff members need time to shop and wrap the hundreds of gifts we give out, so please consider sending a generous gift with the coupon above to fill our fund! You can be sure that the HOINA children will have a happy Christmas celebration. We appreciate each gift, no matter the size.

