



NEWS FROM

HOINA

HOMES OF THE INDIAN NATION

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

I Am Because They Were

by Yesu Ratnam
HOINA Graduate

[EDITORS NOTE: Yesu Ratnam, one of our HOINA graduates who suffers from the effects of polio, has helped create HOINA's many tile murals, which you have seen featured in photos in this newsletter over the years. As a college student, he has written this article giving thanks for all that God, HOINA, and his HOINA parents have done for him.]

My name is Yesu Ratnam, and I hail from a remote village of Guntur District in Andhra Pradesh State. My father ran our family with his small income as a fisherman. We lived hand-to-mouth in financial scarcity, and our survival was hard. We were a small family of four. My brother is mentally retarded, and my mother had a spinal injury. I lost [the use of] both of my limbs due to polio at the age of five. So, my father was the only source of income for the rest of us.

My brother and I were joined in a government school where my brother used to carry me on his shoulders. I could sense the melancholy of my parents by looking at the plight of me and my brother. They used to pray for



me day and night. After seeing all this, I determined to join in a hostel in Tenali, one that was lead by a social welfare agency.

I was only in fourth standard (grade) when I finished my schooling in Tenali. I always felt uncomfortable as that hostel was meant for mainstream students. I thought of joining a special hostel meant for gifted children, but since my parents were illiterates, they couldn't find any of such. But one day someone came to my home and informed us about HOINA, where Americans provide free education and hospitality. Though HOINA cares mainly for orphans, they gave admission to me seeing the plight of my family. I am thankful to HOINA for that great opportunity, without which I couldn't have reached to higher education. HOINA

provided me everything that I needed. I felt a bit more comfortable there than at home. Finally, with the support of HOINA I was able to finish my schooling until tenth standard with good marks.

After finishing high school, I joined Kottavalasa Junior College, but I failed in the board examinations at the 10+2 level. At that moment, my mother encouraged me to write the exams in the next attempt. As I stayed

I Am Because They Were

home to prepare for the exams, the same old friend, namely, “Poverty,” met us. Then my mom suggested I work for Heaven Tiles Company to eke out my living. So, I joined there as a part-time employee and learned tiling work. Eventually, I completed my Intermediate schooling in 2009. Next I joined A.C. College, in Guntur for my bachelor’s degree. Since my whole life until now had been lived in hostels, I could not enjoy the love of my parents as others do. I did not have enough money even to buy tiffin [a snack] outside. I lead my life without having anything at nights, so I was regular to the college mess, without which I didn’t have an option. With the government-paid scholarships I would be able to finish my graduation.

My mother used to tell me, “If you want to beat your ‘friend’ Poverty, you should have a weapon: that is education.” I determined to go for higher education at the university level. Fortunately, I got a seat in M.A. in Achaya Nagarjuna University, where I successfully completed my post-graduate work with distinction.

Then I tried for teaching opportunities, but none has shown interest to take me, thinking the kids may

feel uncomfortable seeing my plight. So I gave up the efforts and tried for PhD and prepared for the R Cet with full confidence. My efforts and the support from the Almighty made me a Research Scholar in the department of Telugu ANV. I was then selected for two national fellowships, which provide financial assistance to Research Scholars. With that fellowship and all my mom’s words in tranquility, I felt like winning against my old friend (poverty). Hence, it is proved in my life that education can flip the coin.

I dedicate this victory to Mom and Papa Bruce [Large], who were there for me when no one cared for me. Mom and Papa are from America and have been leading HOINA since decades. They donated their earnings for the needy in India and organized HOINA in India, without expecting anything in return but smiles. I am grateful to my parents because I am living, but I am grateful to Mom and Papa for living well. I remain thankful to them forever. Not only me, but lakhs [100,000s] of souls are indebted to them for their charity. Finally, I want to say one thing from the bottom of my heart: “I am because they (Mom and Papa) were.”

Fill the Christmas Fund - see back page



Correction:
Last month we featured two brothers for sponsorship who had been previously highlighted in the Summer 2018 issue. Our apologies for the mistake in re-running them. We hope you'll consider sponsoring one of this month's children, as they have been awaiting sponsorship since June of last year.

Write a Happy Ending to Their Story



This November, we are thankful to share two sweet little orphans for your sponsorship. As the holidays approach, please remember that you are always able to sponsor a HOINA child in honor of someone else. You'll be doing your friend and these dear girls a good turn.

Parents, please note: if you are allowing your children to read this story, I must forewarn you. This tale is beyond tragic. It is, at best, gruesome.

G. Venkata Lakshmi, 6, and her little sister, G. Yasaswini, 4, are the daughters of Mr. Krishna and Mrs. Lakshmi, who married in 2013. At the time of their marriage, Mr. Krishna worked as a driver. Sadly, sometimes daughters are not as welcome a family addition as sons are in village India. Since Mrs. Lakshmi gave birth to two girls, her husband used to be harsh with his wife. At some point she moved into her parent's house with the children. The village elders put a police case against the abusive Mr. Krishna.

The local police counseled Mr. Krishna and his relatives. At the police station he promised to take his wife and children with him within two months. After a few days Mr. Krishna took his family back in and behaved nicely with them. One day Mr. Krishna proposed that his wife should rent a house in another town near HOINA. The wife, children, and relatives were happy about the change in his life, so his family returned to him. Unfortunately, within two weeks, Mr. Krishna killed his wife and left the children at the dead body of their mother. Weeks later, the police in another town found an unknown burned male body. The police were able to confirm that the remains belonged to Mr. Krishna. The police had placed the two girls with their grandparents; however, the local village elders approached HOINA for admission for these children. Seeing their poor plight, our staff could do nothing but accept them.

Would you give this sad story a happy ending by offering to sponsor one or both of these little girls? Allow them to grow up with joy and education in our HOINA home. Please return the coupon on page 4 with your first monthly 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

Darlene Large (3)
Richard Curry

In Memory of

Bruce Large
Mike Mohler
Ed Mohler
Marjorie Mowrey

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



November 2018

Please use this gift of \$ _____ toward the HOINA Christmas Fund or where most needed.

This gift of \$ _____ is in honor / memory of _____
(please give name & address of person): _____
(circle one)

(please print clearly)

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.



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.

