



NEWS FROM HOINA HOMES OF THE INDIAN NATION

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2017 Trip Report

by Darlene Large
HOINA President

October 10th would have been my husband Bruce's 85th birthday. I remember many things he taught me. One of the things he said was that over one billion of the world's people are suffering from famine. As a food scientist and food safety inspector, he had had the opportunity to travel in 50 countries. In the HOINA work, we have taken in children from city slums and tribal villages in the mountains, many of whom are mentally and physically challenged. Due to your kindness and generous donations for more than 46 years, you have rescued Native American children and orphans from both Mexico and India. I have wonderful memories of you and of answers to prayers through you as I prayed in the quiet times of my home and in my car and as I walked in the valleys, villages, and mountains of this world. Only the Lord heard me. He directed those needs to you, and from your hearts came the blessings that saved thousands of homeless children, and sick or elderly people.

My heart is so full of love today for Him and for all of you. As many of you know, 2017 has been a challenging year for me. My most recent trip, especially, required so much of me because the laws in India are changing. In the past we have cared for children as young as three days old. Now, that practice is no longer allowed. The government wants all children under six years old to be put up for adoption. In August my staff in India and I had to do renewal papers for HOINA for the coming years. Our books and accounts have always been transparent, so that has never been a problem. Many of the new laws being put into place are things that HOINA has abided



Lavanya and Nikitha enjoy cake provided by Chris Zes.

by anyway. For example, corporal punishment is now a punishable offense in schools and homes like ours. Fortunately, we had a number of government officials visit us while I was overseas. They were so pleased with the quality of our homes and the work we are doing. One told me that in his opinion we are number one in the state, which is what the state Director of Women and Child Welfare has also told me in the past. This group said they were shocked by how neat and clean our campus and buildings are. After their tour, they assured me we would be getting our new recognition certificate. Whew! One hurdle crossed.

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While we were in Vijayawada to renew our certification, we had the blessing of visiting over lunch with Dr. Krishna in his home near there. As a HOINA grad and now a member of HOINA's Indian board, Dr. Krishna is a real blessing to us. Another grad and board member, Mathivannan, has two masters degrees in engineering and is from the first class of HOINA students that we had back in the 1970's. He is nearly 50 years old now. Since he is so knowledgeable in environmental engineering, meeting with him is like taking a college class! We consider ourselves fortunate to have these two gentlemen serving our organization overseas.



Ruth Mary, Koti and Gomathi.

We are grateful to Rev. Abraham Thomas of Dallas, Texas, who sent us Aaron and his wife, Alexis, who volunteered for a week with us and were such a blessing.

When I arrived in India, I made a list of all the work I needed to do. My normal three months' work would have to be accomplished in just the month of August. Here are some things we were able to do:

1. We took the Christmas photos for the sponsor cards.
2. We bought what we needed for our new school kitchen to cook in the continental style—cooktops, refrigerator, utensils, pots and pans, and whatever else was needed. The chief minister has announced he wants our locale to be focused on tourism. Thus, restaurants need to focus on cooking for people visiting from Australia, Italy, France, England, Canada, and the USA. We want our students to learn skills that will make them employable.
3. The tailoring classes now have 45 students.
4. We bought the items for plumbing and electrical and carpentry classes.
5. We bought desks and organized the reception office in HOINA's Nesbitt-Ranji Vocational School. Things were looking really beautiful.
6. Our workers continued tiling the floors in the school.
7. We bought chairs for the study rooms in the hostels, and toys, games, and puzzles for the playrooms at the

boys' and girls' homes while we were in Visak. That day we left at 4 a.m. and returned home at 3 a.m. the next morning. It was an exhausting but profitable day for us. I am grateful for the drivers we have on staff, who get me from Point A to Point B to accomplish so much in a short month.

While I was trying to get so much done, I heard the surprising news that some graduates from HOINA's Chennai home were coming to visit us. We had a happy celebration as we enjoyed cake and shared many hugs and stories of our years together. Meena and Koti—our HOINA grads who are Bharatanatyam dance teachers—performed for us while HOINA alumni Angeli, Ruth Mary (aschool nurse), and sisters Iswarya and Saranya helped us to learn the new dance that our dance instructors taught everyone. We played games and shared a fun-filled evening. I was so proud of them all. Besides fun, they also blessed us with a generous gift to help with our education expenses. These students donate to us each month, but once a year they return to bestow this gift to us personally. Dr. N. Krishna and his family also joined us for the festivities, and he invited his friends from *The Hindu* newspaper to report on us. Local press coverage never hurts our cause. *The Hindu* has been published daily in English since 1889, making it the second-most

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Iswarya, Angeli Devi and Saranya.

read English newspaper in India.

This year's trip afforded me a chance to talk with my students about their families and their problems. Some students told me about their mothers and even some of the students themselves, who had been forced into relationships with men, which in many cases, led the mothers to alcoholism and prostitution. We shed tears for grandmothers who struggled to help their grandchildren but were unable to do so. I heard stories of the abuse that the children had endured, which caused them to run from their families. Eventually, the police found them on the streets and brought them to HOINA. How much heartache they have endured.

However, it was wonderful to learn that our polio-handicapped grads are doing well. Yesu Ratnam is now working on his PhD. in the Bapatla College. Shurbunisha came on a train from Chennai in her wheelchair to visit us. She looked wonderful. Overall, it was a well-enjoyed "family" reunion.

During my month there, we had very heavy rainstorms. One lasted 55 minutes and brought lightning that destroyed our computers and caused our canal to run over its banks. The flooding caused a large snake to evacuate his hole and to show up at our front door. The python was the largest most of us had ever seen at nearly seven feet long. As one of our staff, Timmy, stood on a chair to hold it by the tail so we could see how large it was, I noticed that the snake was moving its head from side to side. I told Timmy to kill it because it was still alive! Since pythons are not venomous as are cobras, Timmy was unconcerned. I cannot say I felt the same way.

Most of the trip was great, and many prayers were answered. Know that the children pray for you daily. I rode with them on their school buses and enjoyed their prayer before leaving the campus driveway. I especially enjoyed their singing their praise songs to God. As I signed their report cards the next day, I smiled as I noticed how many of them have A's and A pluses in their subjects. Your prayers for us surely have done wonders.

~ Thank you, Darlene



On September 10, R. Swathi participated in the South Zone State Meet where she took three medals: gold in the 100m race, silver in 200m, and silver in the 1000m relay in the 18 under age group. The national event had to be postponed due to this summer's excessive heat wave in India. We continue to wait to see how she progresses and hope she gets to represent India on her national team!

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

HOINA
PO Box 87
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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

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HOINA Sponsor and Contribution Coupon



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



Oct 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): _____

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All donations are tax deductible.



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Christmas Needs at HOINA

Those of you who sponsor HOINA children often wish to send them gifts during the holidays. However, for the sake of our children who haven't yet been blessed with sponsors (and because overseas shipping is expensive and unreliable), we ask you to consider making a gift to HOINA's Christmas Fund instead.

HOINA's Christmas Fund allows us to buy gifts for all of our children—making sure each boy and girl receives

something special—and, when funds allow, to give bonuses to our Indian staff members who do so much to run our homes with dignity and love.

Consider sending a gift—any amount would be a blessing—to HOINA's Christmas Fund with the coupon above. As always, your generosity is such a blessing. You make HOINA's important work in India possible, and we are so deeply grateful.