



# NEWS FROM HOINA HOMES OF THE INDIAN NATION

PO Box 87, St. Charles, Missouri 63302 • [www.hoina.org](http://www.hoina.org) • September 2016

## My HOINA Journey

by Caitlin Carmody,  
HOINA Board Member

As I'm writing this newsletter, Mom [HOINA President Darlene Large] and I have been here in India for about three weeks, but we both agree that this has been one of the most jam-packed trips ever. My first day here I was bitten by a venomous spider, and both of my ankles swelled and were very painful for about two weeks. The bruising has still not gone away completely but is healing. Just this week I was suffering from a terrible fever and severe headache, but testing of my blood showed that I am perfectly healthy. Now I am feeling much better. Let's hope that stays true.

Four of our girls have just started nursing school and are thrilled about their studies! A friend of HOINA, Dan Chakravarthi, introduced us to the program and got our four girls a reduced rate for studying. The girls say they love their school and their classes and couldn't be more excited to be learning about nursing. We have found the funds to cover their educational expenses, but their hostel fees are proving to be costly. Commuting from HOINA has also proven to be expensive as we are more than an hour bus ride away from their college.



Indu, Yasoda, Karuna Prasanna and Priyanka (left to right), our HOINA nursing students, are joyfully studying for their future careers. If you would like to sponsor one's college fees, please see the coupon on page 4.

We are looking for people to sponsor these girls' living expenses so that they may study in a safe and healthy hostel close to their college, allowing them to focus on their studies. Each girl will cost about \$45 a month for her living

expenses. If you would like to sponsor one of our nursing students and help her achieve her goal, please return the coupon on page 4 to our office.

continued on page 2

# My HOINA Journey

continued from page 1

Despite some of my minor health set-backs, each day I spend at HOINA is a blessing. It has been that way since the first time I stepped foot on this campus. Before I came to HOINA, I always had this feeling in my heart that I was supposed to be doing something I hadn't found, like a hole that I hadn't yet figured out how to fill. Even after coming to HOINA the first and second times, I still didn't recognize that this is the place that was calling me. I have loved HOINA from the beginning, but serving here as part of the organization seemed unrealistic. After college, I worked as an environmental chemist, but I was continuously unhappy there because I wasn't directly helping people and the company's values did not mirror my own. However, all that time, my involvement with HOINA continued to grow. Not until I became a board member did I really start to think that this is where I belonged. It seemed the more good that was happening with HOINA, the more awful my experience at my job was becoming. That juxtaposition finally made me realize that 100 percent of my time should be going toward something that matters, something good, something like HOINA.

On this trip, I had confirmation that I am where I belong. I would be lying if I said I didn't have any doubts at first. I love HOINA, the cause, the children, the message, but I didn't know if love would be enough, or if I, personally, would be enough. Though here for only three weeks so far, I have had more messages from God than I can remember in most of my life. One extremely powerful one was after my spider bite. I was sitting in my room praying and begging God to help me. I asked Him for strength through the pain and thought maybe this was a sign that I'm not where I should be. I asked Him to show me the way and to help me do the right



Hema, Sagar and Caitlin

thing. I opened my Bible and asked Him to speak to me. I opened to Psalm 41. It says "Blessed are those who have regard for the weak, the Lord delivers them in times of trouble... They are counted among the blessed in the land... The Lord delivers them on their sickbed and restores them from illness." It was as if He was there in my room talking with me, telling me not to worry, that I'm where I need to be, that love is always enough, and that He will take care of all the rest. The comfort and peace I felt after reading that were more amazing than I've ever felt before. I knew God was speaking to me.

The next day, I told Mom about my experience. She said to me, "Do you know that Psalm 41 is the HOINA scripture? It used to be on all of my business cards!" I was totally shocked. I never knew. My sense of belonging here surged.

So, with a happy heart, I tell you that I am excited to see what happens on my HOINA journey and am extremely blessed to be here learning about what love can do.

## Newest HOINA Board Member Named

*[Editor's Note: Last month we told you about Dr. N. Krishna's successes in his field of study. We are proud to announce that he has been named to the HOINA board in India. We asked him to give us a little of his history that was not included last month.]*

My name is Dr. N. Krishna. I lost my father in my childhood. My mother used to go to the fields to do agricultural labor to earn money for our daily needs. The

school teachers were always punishing me due to my negligence. One day I escaped from my village. Finally, they found me after a week. At that time, fortunately, my mother found the HOINA organization at Chirala from her neighbors. At the time, I was 7 years old and a 2nd class [grade] student. Gradually, I trusted in Jesus to solve my problems.



continued on page 4

# HOINA Boy Sundar Rao Now World-Famous TV Reporter



On July 27 a long-awaited introduction finally occurred. HOINA newsletter editor and past board member, Letti L. Becker, daughter of HOINA President Darlene Large, had the privilege of dining with HOINA Graduate, Sundara Rao Turumella (b. 1977). The meeting took place while Letti was visiting Dallas, Texas, where Sundar is working as a television reporter for the TV5 Telugu

channel from Hyderabad, India. He says he would never be where he is now had it not been for HOINA.

Being in need of care and coming from a poor family, Sundar joined HOINA in 1984. His first job after he graduated 10th standard (high school) was as a videographer. He was pleased to take a position as a first camera assistant at Hyderabad's well-known station TV5. Over the years his successes on the job have led to positions as a cameraman and a senior cameraman, until he was promoted to the head of the camera department, where he oversaw the work of over 60 people.

His last promotion was to the position of TV Reporter for TV5. He pitched a storyline that would cover gender-based violence, and domestic and campus violence. His station won the slot over all other TV stations to cover news in our nation's capital, Washington, D.C. His travels have taken him from there to New Jersey, NYC, San Francisco, and now Dallas, among many other U.S. cities. His Telugu broadcasts are seen across the globe.

Most recently, he was live on the ground, covering the police shootings in Dallas as that tragic tale unfolded. His most proud title is not as "TV5 Sundar" but as "HOINA Boy Sundar," saying that he owes all he is to HOINA and to God who has helped him to have these successes.

Please pray for Sundar and his family, as his wife and two children are still in India. He is thankful for technology that allows him to be in communication with them, but he sees them most infrequently as he is based out of Dallas now. He is grateful for the opportunity, however, and willing to make the sacrifices for their future. Sundar Rao thanks the HOINA sponsors for making his current life possible.



## A Special Smile this September

A bright and smiling young fourth-grader, L. Yogendra, is our feature child this month. He is a semi-orphan who came to be in HOINA's custody in the following manner:

Mr. Loda Venkata Ramana and Mrs. Loda Varalakshmi got married in the year of 2002. Finally, they were blessed with just one baby boy on 25 May 2008. Mr. Venkata Ramana was a daily laborer. Unfortunately, Mr. Venkata Ramana was also an alcoholic. Due to his bad habit, his health failed; and he died on 15 July 2012. After the death of her husband, Ms. Varalakshmi worked as a daily laborer and a house maid to provide for her son. She didn't have any house or property to live in. Seeing their pitiful condition, a neighbor alerted her to our HOINA hostel.

Won't you help Yogendra's future by helping support him? Your \$35 gift each month helps provide him a safe and secure home at HOINA.

HOINA is a 501(c)3, tax-exempt organization with international headquarters located at:  
HOINA  
PO Box 87  
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This newsletter is published to inform our readers of the work HOINA does among the handicapped and abandoned in India.

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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](mailto:hoina@frontiernet.net)  
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## HOINA Sponsor and Contribution Coupon

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Mail coupon to: **HOINA**  
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Use my gift to help defray the expenses for HOINA's college students.

\$45 \_\_\_\_\_

\$90 \_\_\_\_\_

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ (other)

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.



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## Welcome New Board Member

*continued from page 2*

Finally, with help from my teachers, I became a clever and successful student. I took advice from several HOINA staff, and I planned for my future line of work. I had a strong desire to become a doctor at the age of 17 years. God guided me to go on the right way. When I accomplished my B.Sc. degree in 2001, from the basis of my hard work, I joined HOINA as an assistant warden. Eventually, I scored good results in my entrance exams, and I explained my situation to Mom and Papa Bruce [Large]. Without any hesitation, they had HOINA pay my fees for one year of my post-graduate education.

With the help of God, I graduated from my post-

graduate program with first class distinction in the year of 2007. While I was teaching, I had a dream to get my PhD. Then, as per my interest, my dream and my vision, I joined the Acharya Nagarjuna University as a research scholar PhD student. I struggled a lot in doing my research work but with the help of God and my research supervisor and colleagues from my previous college, I was able to handle all of the research activities and challenges. I have now been named a Young Scientist by the Science and Engineering Research Board in New Delhi, India.

I stand beside HOINA with my level best. Again, thank you so much for your prayers on my behalf.