



NEWS FROM HOINA HOMES OF THE INDIAN NATION

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

Staff Encourages HOINA Students to Study Engineering

by Letti L. Becker
Newsletter Editor

As I send my daughter back to my alma mater for her sophomore year of college, I feel the sting of her tuition and room and board fees. I look at what I paid to attend the same school 32 years ago and shake my head at inflation. Anyone with a college-aged student knows the woes of the cost of higher education in the U.S. these days. While U.S. education costs have skyrocketed, many students in this country are prevented from attending college or questioning if the debt incurred is worth the degree earned. Our family has always believed that education is worth the cost. Likewise, at HOINA, we believe that education is a powerful tool to breaking the cycle of poverty.

In India, government-run schools cost less than private colleges, just as in the U.S. most state schools cost less than our private ones. The public universities in India may cost less, but they are often better schools, which makes them more desirable. While in America most state universities can accommodate however many students seek admission, competition for the limited number of seats at the government-run Indian schools is high. When you hear that a HOINA child is awaiting a “seat” in a program, that means they have passed the entrance examinations and are literally waiting for someone to graduate or drop out, to open up a seat for them in that particular course of study.

Presently, HOINA has 11 girls and 17 boys who are enrolled in either a bachelor’s degree program or are seeking a diploma in a technical or vocational path of study. Next year, five girls and two boys are on track

to begin their university studies. These students are currently studying 10+2 (an intermediate program that we might consider high school completion). For the next few months, we’ll spotlight some of these students.

This month we feature three engineering hopefuls. Enrolled in July, Sharmila is our only female engineering student. Here we give you her story in her own words:

J. Sharmila

Computer Engineering Diploma;
Bachelor of Technology/Computer Science Engineering



“I am J. Sharmila, 20 years old. I want to become a software engineer, specifically, a web designer. When I completed my 10+2 studies, Bujji Uncle [HOINA Manager] suggested I study diploma course. I like to work with computers, so I chose to study computer engineering. While I was studying diploma, I learned about web designing. At that time I got an idea to design HOINA web page as my first design. I find

J. Sharmila continued from page one

web designing to be so interesting, and every time I work with computers I feel happy. I have completed my Diploma in Computer Engineering and would like to continue in the field by getting my Bachelor's of Technology (B-Tech) with a focus on Computer Science Engineering. I want to learn even more.

Last year I tried to get an engineering seat. They asked for a big amount of money for fees [90,000 rupees per year tuition], but I felt really bad because I thought about my other HOINA sisters. I thought how can I go to a University that costs so much money? I didn't want to be the only student who had a good opportunity, so I didn't pursue my Bachelor's. I spent a very sad year because I couldn't study. Then Anand Uncle [HOINA General Manager] encouraged me this way. He said, "You can study engineering. Surely our God and Mom will help to pay the fees," and he told me not to give up on study for this reason. So I didn't give up. This year I am trying to get an engineering seat.

Since I was a three years old baby, Mom has been caring for me. If I were in my relatives' house, I would not have even studied past fifth standard [grade], but

HOINA educated me a lot. When I was so discouraged in my studying, HOINA was encouraging me. HOINA gave me good opportunities and facilities. I feel that my life at HOINA is even more happy than other kids who have parents. I feel so thankful for my mom (Darlene Large) because she really worked hard and is still working hard to educate me. I feel thanks for my sponsor, also, because she is giving helping hand to Mom to help me."

- J. Sharmila

When HOINA students attend a government university, the cost is about \$1000 per year. To house a student while they study away from our HOINA campus runs in the \$1500 per year range. If students attend a private university, the cost is usually \$2000-2500 per year. While these fees seem negligible compared to American college prices, coming up with even \$1000-2000 in India is a stretch for many aspiring students. Would you consider sponsoring a scholarship for a HOINA student? If so, please complete the coupon on the back page. Know that we (and our students) would be very grateful to you.

B. Sunil continued from back page

my dream to become a manager at steel plant because I want to help people. When I have a good job, I can provide books and food to those poor people who live by the road side. The reason I chose Metallurgy Engineering is because in India so many people don't know about it, but we can easily get jobs in Metallurgy. Only a few colleges are teaching Metallurgy.

Before I came to HOINA, I was not studying. I came to HOINA at five years old boy. If I didn't come to HOINA, I would have been stuck doing some jobs like labor work or farming work. My relatives do not understand the value of education because they did not study. Most of them only studied up to 3rd, 4th, or 5th class. My brother only completed 10th class and is doing farm work. I will be the first person in my entire family to complete a Bachelor's Degree. I am very proud to say this. I want to say thanks to Mom and all of HOINA for giving me such a great opportunity."

- B. Sunil

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.

*A wise man will hear and increase learning.
And a man of understanding will attain wise counsel.
~ Proverbs 1:5*

Invest in the Present to Secure the Future

Our sponsor child this month has great gaps in his personal history. Maybe you would like to remedy that for his future. On August 27, 2009, Pendri Santha Kumar was born to his parents, Ramu and Santhi. A poor couple, they scavenged for paper and plastic to recycle from the streets and trash of their city. It is unknown how both of Santha Kumar's parents died, but we know he was in the care of an aunt until she was unable to provide for him. Through the kind attention of a local pastor, Santha Kumar came to HOINA in June of last year. He is awaiting a sponsor even now.

Could you be that person? Your gift of \$35 each month will provide all

of Santha Kumar's meals and snacks; a place for him to sleep instead of in the streets, where many orphans inevitably end up; an education through trade school or college, including all admission fees, books, and uniforms; as well as any medical care he may need in the future.

With your help, one day, we hope he will be standing on the stage of a school, graduating with honors (as many HOINA students do). Would you invest in P. Santha Kumar's present so that in the future he will have a past filled with happy memories? Give him the secure knowledge that someone loved him enough to take care of one of what



some in the world call "throw-away children." That term holds no power at HOINA. We see potential in all our children. We hope you will, too.

B. Raju Diploma 2nd Year: Civil Engineering

"My aim is to become a Civil Engineer. I want to create building plans. After finishing 10th standard [grade], HOINA Bujji Sir [HOINA Manager] came and explained different careers I could have one day. He told me all about engineering and, specifically, civil engineering. When I heard him say all of that, I felt like I would like to study civil engineering and thought it was so interesting.

If I was not at HOINA, I would not have been able to study. When I was in 6th class, my mom passed away, and I never even met my dad. Before I came to HOINA, my grandmother took care of me. She did not have money to send me to school. If I was not at HOINA, my grandmother would not have been able to support me for my degrees.

I feel so happy I have the opportunity to become a civil engineer. If someone was sponsoring me for my degree, I would be inspired to study even harder. When I get a good job, I want to say thanks to everyone who supported me. I want to say thank you to Mom. I want to use my job to take care of my little sister. When I get a job, I will help someone who is like me and doesn't have a chance to study like I do. I want to help people going through this kind of problem."



- B. Raju

HOINA Sponsor and Contribution Coupon



Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Account Number (on your mailing label): _____

- Please use this gift of \$ _____ toward the HOINA Scholarship/Education Fund.
- Please use this gift of \$ _____ toward the HOINA General Fund or where most needed.
- I want to Sponsor a HOINA boy / girl (circle one). Here is my first monthly gift of \$35.

Mail coupon to:

HOINA
PO Box 636
Brownstown, PA 17508-0636



All donations are tax deductible.

Sept. 2018



HOINA
PO Box 636
Brownstown, PA 17508-0636

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

As back-to-school season is upon us in the U.S., we feature some of HOINA's Engineering hopefuls.

B. Sunil

General Engineering Diploma Second Year;
2020 Metallurgy Engineering Bachelor's after
completing Diploma

"After completing my engineering diploma, I will prepare for the ECET (B-Tech entrance test.) After completing my B-Tech, I wish to have a job as a supervisor at a steel plant. It is

continued on page two

