



NEWS FROM

HOINA

HOMES OF THE INDIAN NATION

PO Box 87, St. Charles, Missouri 63302 • www.hoina.org • December 2019

Our Children Shine Like Stars

by Alexis

HOINA House Mother

Last year, we started a program in the girls' home where kids lose or gain "stars" as a form of discipline. The program has been a fun way to motivate the kids, as well as teach them how our actions always have consequences—

whether good or bad. HOINA children are given five stars at the beginning of each week. If they are late for dinner, leave their clothes on the floor, are rude to others, or come late for study time, they lose one star. At the end of the week, the stars they have left are converted to "HOINA Dollars" that they can use

Divya hugs a stuffed animal she bought with her HOINA dollars.

to "shop" at the HOINA Store, which has stuffed animals, nail polish, hair clips, candy, etc. Through this program, we have been emphasizing integrity, so whenever the caretakers catch someone doing something good (when no one is watching or no one asked them to do it) we reward them with stars. They also earn stars for every A and B they make, as well as every time they bring up their grades.

I feel very blessed to work with this group of HOINA kids. Having worked at different children's homes in the past, I have been particularly impressed with the level of maturity, kindness, and brightness that the HOINA children have. Mom [Darlene Large] has truly raised them well.

We've told you in past issues about our formal programs: "Angel of the Month" for the girls' home, and "HOINA Hero" for the boys' home. Every month the HOINA caretakers get together to choose one boy and one girl for the award. These hard-working kids have gone above and beyond to help their little HOINA brothers or sisters and always speak kindly to others. We also pay careful attention to notice when a child has worked particularly hard to improve his or her behavior or grades

and will choose the HOINA Angel/Hero for those achievements, as well.

At the end of the month, we all get together and announce the HOINA Angel/Hero in a special ceremony. He or she will then come



Our Children Shine

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to the front of the room, and all of the caretakers and children will get the chance to say encouraging and loving things about the child. Occasionally, we will pick more than one boy or girl, so that we can encourage as many kids as possible.

We are so proud of our HOINA students, and as every parent loves to boast about their children, we at HOINA like to boast a little bit about ours.

Pictured below is Sharmila, one of our most recent HOINA Angels. Sharmila was one of the first girls I met



Tirumala Rao, pictured at left, is one of the most recent HOINA Heroes. Abhishek, the boy's housefather, says that Tirumala Rao is always helping others, even when no one asks him to. He is the first one to



Sharmila, standing with, from left to right, her college principal, a local professor, and her computer science engineering department head.

at HOINA. She is soft-spoken, yet a strong leader among the girls. She is now 21 years old and has been at HOINA since she was just three. All of the little children adore her, and she takes care of each of them with so much love, gentleness, and kindness.

She is currently studying Computer Science Engineering and will graduate in 2021. She is at the top of her class and recently did so well on a class presentation that she was featured in the local news! Her presentation was on plastic waste management, and she won the first place prize from among her peers. I am always so impressed by her brilliance. For those of you who haven't heard of her major, Computer Engineering is one of the most rigorous engineering disciplines. It combines Computer Science with Electrical Engineering. Although her mother tongue is Tamil, she often translates for me, perfectly, from English to Telugu—her second and third languages. Having mastered three languages, she's already started working hard to learn Korean next! Obviously, science isn't the only place she shines.

take initiative around the home whenever something is needed. He is an A+ student who uses his free time to help smaller kids with their homework. At night, Tirumala Rao walks around the home just to make sure everyone is in bed and that no one needs anything.

He came to HOINA when he was seven years old, and now he is 17. I asked him what he wants to be when he grows up. He said, "I want to become a Government Collector. (A collector is the main

representative for that district.) If I become a collector, I will have the rights over the entire district. I could implement anything I want. In this way, I can use my position to help all the villagers and poor people."

HOINA is filled with young boys and girls who all want to make a difference in their communities, and the beautiful nation of India. What a blessing it is to work with such inspiring individuals!

Year-end Giving

How grateful we are for each donation made to HOINA! Please help us serve you better by sending your donations to our office by Dec. 31. We want to be sure to record your donations in the current tax year so our records match yours.

Please Pray

HOINA Board Member, Dr. David Fyfe, will be taking another group of his York College students to visit HOINA later this month into January. We ask for your prayers on their behalf, that they would have safe travels and good health, and would find this trip to be the life-changing experience that so many other York students have enjoyed. Expect to hear from them in some of our 2020 newsletter issues.

Two Are Better Than One!

To close out our year of newsletters, we would like to invite you to help us provide for either or both of these two featured brothers, Mohan Kumar and Gurucharan Polipilli, who joined our home last year. Their story is sad, but our hope is that a life at HOINA will give them a brighter future.

Mr. Kanaka Raju and Mrs. Venkata Lakshmi got married in April of 2010. Mr. Kanaka Raju was working in a sweet shop and living happily. They were blessed with two children. The eldest boy's name is Gurucharan (now 8 years old) and the younger boy's name is Mohan Kumar (now 7 years old). One day, Mrs. Venkata Lakshmi had severe pain in her abdomen and was admitted to the hospital. The same day she died. They discovered her death was due to an ulcer in her stomach. Mr. Kanaka Raju's parents are very old, but they were helping to take care of his children



while he went to work each day. In 2017, Kanaka Raju's father died, and his mother is now too old to give proper care to herself, let alone, to her grandchildren. Mr. Kanaka Raju is having an extremely difficult time providing care for his widowed mother and his two sons. When he approached the Child and Women Welfare Department seeking help,



the department's director sent these children to HOINA.

We are thankful for the many sponsors who provide for our work to continue and whose gifts make HOINA an organization such that the government in our area sees us as a safe haven for so many children. We take their approval as the highest compliment.

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

The Large Family

In Memory of

Cheryl Achterberg
Mr. Bergstrom
Ms. Curay
Albert DiChiera (2)
Dr. David DiChiera
Cheryl Fontaine
Peggy Frank

Nathan Gourley
Lee Lahet
Bruce Large
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George & Esther Moshos
Susan Nuchols
Patricia Reed

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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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December 2019

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This gift of \$ _____ is in honor / memory of
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Sure-to-Please Last-minute Gift Ideas

Having trouble thinking of the perfect gift for that family member who has everything? How about one of these:

- A Christmas donation that will be used to purchase gifts for the HOINA children.
- A one-time donation in honor or memory of someone. If you provide a name and address with your gift, we will send your recipient a thank-you letter acknowledging the gift. In a coming newsletter, we will publish recipient's names in our recognition list as well.
- A child sponsorship.
- A donation to our education fund, providing scholarships for secondary or technical schooling for our children.

