



NEWS FROM

# HOINA

HOMES OF THE INDIAN NATION

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## A Season of Love and Blessings

by Roz Vinci

HOINA Long-time Sponsor

As I write this, I'm still getting over my 30-hour, three-plane trip coming home from HOINA. If you look at a globe, you'll see that HOINA is on the other side of the world from my home in New York City; but it always remains close to my heart. I will continue to visit again and again. Watching the boys and girls grow up and succeed is always such a blessing. It touches my heart when they see me and give me such happy, beautiful smiles.

This trip was specifically for a wedding. One of my sponsees, named Sandhya, is all grown up and found love with a HOINA boy named Sunil. At HOINA the boys' home and the girls' home are separated from each other with a 0.7-mile distance between them and the children don't interact. So, how did these two meet? They found each other at school and have known each other for a long while.

It was a Christian wedding filled with beautiful Indian customs. The



Sunil, Sandhya and Roz at the wedding reception.

bride wore a stunning red saree along with a Western white veil. During the ceremony, long flower garlands were exchanged between

the couple to symbolize giving themselves to one another. There were hundreds of beautifully clad guests. Surprisingly, when dinner



## Love and Blessings cont.

was served it was on long tables with large banana leaves as plates! Dinner, always served with an abundance of rice, is eaten with the right hand only (no flatware). There's a technique to doing this that I have yet to achieve. The children watched me flounder and giggled at me as I dropped lots of rice.

Back at HOINA, I had a craft planned for all the girls. Perhaps you recall seeing the large tissue paper flowers I made with them last year. Well, this year's project was more involved as we made small tissue paper roses. Although we had a bit of a learning curve, the girls were determined and soon got the knack of it. A few young ones would ask me, "Auntie, please start it?" Then they were off and running. In fact, the project was so well liked, they asked me to do it three days in a row! We had brightly colored roses by the dozens. They were red, purple, blue, yellow, green (yes, they made green roses), orange, white and pink. When each girl completed a flower, she would yell out for my approval, "Auntie! Auntie!" or come to me to show me what she did. Over and over I said, "Wow!" or "Beautiful!" "So pretty!" as they lit up with pride. Every girl had a brilliant bouquet.

An easy thing to do with both girls and boys is the string game, Cat's Cradle. I learned this as a child and love to teach it to kids for hours of entertainment just from a string. No need for fancy electronics to have fun. I always bring about 25 strings, and then the children pair



Making paper roses proved to be worth three days of fun.

off to play. I feel a special joy when they ask me to be their partner. We make each other happy.

At the boys' home, I usually focus on sports. This year I gave several badminton sets along with plenty of birdies. They like to play four boys at a time, and they're good. For the small boys, I had lots of balloons. It was curious how they blew up the balloons to the side of their face and not in front. The very small boys would crowd around me waiting for me to tie them. They ran all over the field waving the balloons, or they tapped them in the air with such joy. As we played, a huge rainbow appeared over the boys' field (and there wasn't any rain)! We all felt blessed.

Both boys and girls hold to a strict schedule, and a large, loud



Susmitha holding a bouquet of flowers.

bell is rung letting them know when it's time for the next activity. Some things on their schedule are meals, school, play, study, and bathing. It's



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great how they respect this and even respond happily by running to the next activity. HOINA is a home full of love that invests in a child's education and well-being and turns out hundreds and hundreds of well adjusted young adults ready for the world. As proof we look to the newly-married Sandhya and Sunil, who are starting their life together. Their new apartment is just a few miles away from campus.

HOINA abounds with blessings, and I humbly receive some of those blessings on every visit.



A rainbow without rain shines above our HOINA campus.



Badminton and balloons offered a fun day thanks to Roz Vinci.

## Remembrances

Thank you to the many donors who chose to give memorial and honorary gifts from October to December 2018. 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.

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February 2019

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## Show Some Charity to Charan

K. Charan was born on January 2, 2012. This sweet 7-year-old is a semi-orphan, who came to us last June. His parents married in 2001, and they were blessed with two children. Mr. Satyanarayana was supporting his family as a truck driver's assistant. One day, when Charan was just 13 months old, his father was loading goods onto the top of a truck when he fell. He hit his head and immediately went into a coma. While he was admitted to the hospital, he sadly died of his injuries just a few days later. From that time onward, Charan's mother has worked as a daily laborer to support her family. Now, she is suffering with a few health problems that prevent her from working every day. Due to this, she is unable to take care of her children.

Charan thinks he would like to join the police force when he gets older. You can help him achieve his goal by sending your first monthly donation of \$35 to our office at the address on the coupon above.

