



NEWS FROM

HOINA

HOMES OF THE INDIAN NATION

PO Box 87, St. Charles, Missouri 63302 • www.hoina.org • February 2020

HOINA is Full of Angels and Heroes

by Alexis

HOINA House Mother

In our December newsletter we explained our programs for HOINA Angel of the Month (at our girls' home) and the HOINA Hero (at our boys' home). We wanted to share a few more of the children selected for these honors. Gowri tends to shy away from the limelight. Her heart is so pure, and she has earned a name for herself around the campus as one of the kindest people. She always sits with the small kids at dinnertime to help them eat and often braids their hair in the mornings. Currently, she is studying in 10+2 (which is equivalent to the 12th grade); and her goal is to become an elementary school science teacher. She came to HOINA when she was nine years old and is now 17. When I asked her what she loves about HOINA, she replied,

"In HOINA, no one can ever be alone. Everyone loves and takes care of us. Whenever I'm sad, so many people always come to me and ask me what's wrong. I love that they care about me so much."

If you ask the littlest girls which sister takes the best care of them, they will always reply "Gowri Akka!" (*Akka* means big sister in Telugu.) She is truly a blessing to HOINA and bears the name "HOINA Angel" well.



Remembrances

Thank you to the many donors who chose to give memorial gifts through January 2020. 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 Memory of

Bruce Large (3)
Dirk Large (3)
Pat Marinetti
Susan Nuckols (2)

In Honor of

Bill and Judith Buchler
Darlene Large (3)
Melissa May
Patricia Nelp
Wayne Olson
Carl and Linda Stoots
John and Anne Tennis



Angels and Heroes

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Another HOINA Angel is Vinisha (pictured below). While Gowri is quite quiet, Vinisha is a strong, opinionated young woman, who stands up for what is right and is often the first person to tell me when someone is not being fair to others. She is also studying in +2. Every night, during study time, you can find Vinisha sitting with the smaller students, helping them with their homework. No one has ever asked her to do this, but she has taken it upon herself to help them. She wants to become a teacher so that she can work with kids, and at the same time, earn an income so that she can use her free time to help people in need. Vinisha came to HOINA when she was just five years old, and she is now a beautiful 19-year-old young lady. I asked her how she feels about growing up in HOINA almost all of her life, to which she replied,

“I love HOINA. I have never felt alone here. Even though I didn’t grow up in a traditional home with parents, I have never felt like I missed out on anything in my childhood. Actually, I feel like I missed out on HOINA in the first five years of my life! I have had a wonderful childhood, and the only regret I have is not coming to HOINA sooner.”



Pujitha (top right), easily one of the sweetest girls you will ever meet, is the last girl we feature this month. Everyone loves her little dimpled smile. She enjoys helping others, and always plays kindly with her friends. One time, all of the kids left the dining hall quickly after



lunch without cleaning up. I went to call some older kids to come help, and when I returned I saw little Pujitha wiping the tables all by herself. She is currently in the 5th standard and says she wants to be a CBI officer when she grows up. CBI stands for India’s Central Bureau of Investigation, which is equivalent to the FBI in the U.S. Pujitha said she saw a movie one time where a CBI officer was using his position to fight crime and help poor people. She was so inspired by that, she decided she too wants to help poor people one day like that officer. Pujitha’s favorite subject is math, and her favorite color is sky blue. Her favorite food is fried noodles. I asked Pujitha why she likes HOINA, and she said,

“Even though my relatives didn’t care about me, HOINA cared so much about me.”

Pujitha has been at HOINA since she was just nine. She is now 11 and growing up to be a lovely little girl. Congratulations to all of our HOINA Angels.

Enough about our girls. Let me now introduce you to Venkatesh, one of HOINA’s most recent Heroes. He came to HOINA when he was six, and he is now 15. His house father, Abhishek said he selected Venkatesh to be a HOINA Hero because he always helps kids when they are sick. If anyone falls ill, Venkatesh is the first person to help them, cleaning up after them if needed, and bringing them food and water. He is known around

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the campus for his humility and respect towards his elders. Whenever an adult walks into the room, he is the first person to stand up and greet them respectfully. He never complains, but rather quietly steps up to any job that is needed.

If you want to find Venkatesh, the first place you should look is in the HOINA library. He loves to read,

especially history books. The most interesting book he ever read is about the war in which Pakistan separated from India. He is fascinated by battles and always wants to know more about India's history.

I asked Venkatesh what he wants to be when he grows up, and he said,

"I want to be in the army. I have had that dream since I was a small child. My dad got a job in the Indian Army but passed away right before he was supposed to start. I feel like if I can be in the army, I can fulfill my dad's dreams, in a way, and make my family proud."

Annual Statements

You should have received your annual giving statement from our HOINA office in Brownstown, PA, by now. If yours did not arrive or if you spot an error, please alert our office immediately at 877.994.6462 (toll-free outside of PA) or 717.355.9494 so that we can correct it for you. We appreciate your generous support of our work. Thank you!

Make HOINA President's Birthday Extra-Special

After more than 40 years serving in India, please help us honor **Darlene Large's 85th Birthday** coming up at the end of March.

Send your cards to her here:

c/o HOINA
P.O. Box 87
Saint Charles, MO 63302-0087



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

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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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February 2020

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Tragedy Heaped Upon Tragedy

This month we share a sweet semi-orphan who needs a sponsor, Joshna. In May of 2009, her father, a daily laborer, married his dear wife. They enjoyed the blessings of two children, with Joshna being born two years after they married.

You may remember reading about Cyclone Hudhud back in 2014. We showed you pictures in our newsletter of the ravages of the enormous storm on the HOINA property, and told you how a large portion of the Indian subcontinent felt its effects. Joshna's father was working to trim trees after the storm, trying to clean up some of the terrible mess. Unfortunately, he lost his grip and fell from a tree while working. A trip to the hospital was not enough to save him, and he died just weeks after the storm. After his death, his wife became ill and was not able to take care of her children. The book of James (1:27) says, "Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress." Following that advice, our staff took this delightful child into HOINA's care.

