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

So Much Love Here

by Alexis HOINA House Mother

The HOINA kids have great aspirations, maturity, and a sense of responsibility to their communities. I have loved getting to know them, and their dreams.

The other day I was sitting in one of the many beautiful gazebos on campus, watching the girls play. Some were swinging, some were playing tag, and another group had formed to play cricket. Everyone was out enjoying the few hours in which the rain subsided long enough to go outside.

I saw Jhansi Rani coming over to talk to me. She is a very sweet girl. She has a gentle spirit and is incredibly bright. One day she wants to become a science teacher and is currently studying intermediate second year (which is equivalent to 12th grade.) She has chosen a science track where her studies primarily focus on Biology, Physics, Chemistry, and Zoology.

I asked her if she would be willing to share a little bit about her background with me. She shared about her past and her dreams for



Jhansi Rani dreams of teaching the next generation.

the future. When we got to the part where she first came to HOINA, she broke down crying tears of thankfulness, expressing to me how happy she was that she found HOINA. Here is a bit of her story:

"Before I came to HOINA, I lived in another children's home until I was in the 5th grade. I hated that children's home and it was very difficult for me to stay there. We used to have to wake up at 5 in the morning and clean the roads. They didn't give proper food or nutrition. We didn't have any beds. We all stayed in one room. We had to keep all of our belongings in that room and then we all slept in the middle on the floor. We didn't have any blankets or mats or

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anything. We had to find a way to buy our blankets, and toiletries, and anything else we needed.

"I stayed in that children's home until my mom died when I was in the 5th grade. My uncle was the one who told me about HOINA then. I was really scared to come because I thought HOINA might be like the other children's home, but when I came to HOINA I was so happy. The staff looks after me very well. The food here is really good and there is so much love here. I used to feel like I didn't have parents or anyone who cared for me but when I came to HOINA I felt like God gave me a family. I was so happy at HOINA that it was hard for me to remember the pain I used to feel. I love all the other kids and sisters. I used to think I was the only one who didn't have parents, but when I came to HOINA, I felt like I found other people who were just like me. One of the best things I've learned from HOINA is how to care for other people. I love HOINA and everything about it, especially Mom. I am so thankful for HOINA and hope to give back to other kids one day when I become a teacher."

When she finished her story, I gave her a big hug and thanked her for sharing that with me. By now a small group of girls had formed around me, and Satyavathi, who goes by Meena, asked if she could share something as well.

"I am currently studying in 10th class. I came to HOINA when I was 5 years old. I love biology (she



Back in 2016 we reported how we lost our two sweet canine defenders as they protected our campus from a cobra. Over the years, we've gathered a few more furry friends we've introduced to you. Pictured here with Meena is Bruno, a gift to HOINA President Darlene Large, who is partial to Dachshunds. As you can see, he is a well-loved member of the HOINA family!

practically has her biology textbook memorized) and I love HOINA so much. When I came here for the first time, I felt so happy. The environment is beautiful and there is so much love here. I love my sisters and all of the staff. They take great care of me.

"My dream is to learn Agriculture

Law. In school, I have been learning about the problems farmers face and want to do something to help them. Farmers don't know how to farm sustainably. The earth is full of plastic and there is so much pollution. Because of this, many people are dying. I want to teach people how they can plant trees and

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take better care of the land.

"There are so many problems happening right now because people are not taking care of nature. If we don't do anything to change this, in another 20 or 30 years more people will die. I want to teach and train farmers on how they can take care of the land in a better way.

"I also really want to learn Agriculture Law so that I can help the many farmers who are struggling. Farmers are facing so many problems here and many of them are committing suicide because they are working so hard and are still not able to provide for their families. Many people are taking advantage of them. If I study Agriculture Law, I can help them and make sure they get what they need to live and take care of their families.

"I am so thankful that I have come to HOINA and have the opportunity to study. Mom gave me a home with great food, and I love all of my sisters here. I am so much thankful for mom. She took care of me and everyone here. I love HOINA and I love Mom."

Truly HOINA is filled with the next generation of little world-changers, each of them with giant dreams to help people just like them and their families. I am incredibly thankful that HOINA exists and is helping these children achieve their dreams.

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

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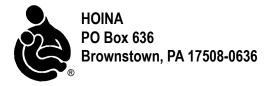
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The official registration and financial information of Homes of the Indian Nation (HOINA) may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling, 1.717.787.1057. Registration does not imply endorsement.

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Pharun Needs your Help

Twelve-year-old Pharun came to HOINA last summer. He is still awaiting a sponsor. Would you consider helping HOINA help him to achieve his potential?

In May, 2006, Mr. Narasimha Murthy, an auto-rickshaw driver, married Mrs. Kalavathi. They were living happily with their two children until Mr. Narasimha Murthy had a heart attack and died during the summer of 2014. His wife began working as a daily laborer and was taking care of her children as best as she could. Unfortunately, she earns so little money as an unskilled worker that she approached HOINA seeking a place for her son. Seeing the needs of this semi-orphan, our staff readily admitted him.

Pharun would like to help keep people safe by becoming a police officer someday. Your first monthly gift of \$35 would help him make that dream a reality.



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