



NEWS FROM

HOINA

HOMES OF THE INDIAN NATION

P.O. Box 636, Brownstown, PA 17508-0636 • www.hoina.org • February 2021

We're Baaaack!

By Alexis G.

After an unprecedented and challenging year, we are thankful to see some sense of normalcy beginning to return to life in India. Cases have been on the downward trend here for some time now. While we are thankful for this, our hearts go out to the many still suffering from the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. India entered into a very strict lockdown in March of 2020 and slowly began lifting restrictions around July. The majority of the HOINA boys and girls were not allowed to stay on the campus during the start of the pandemic due to restrictions placed on children's homes. HOINA was able to receive special permission to allow only the kids from the most desperate backgrounds to stay on campus during the lockdown. As soon as schools began opening up, HOINA was able to slowly welcome children back onto the campus. Some began to trickle back in November, and as of this writing, we now have 47 girls and 33 boys on the campus. Every week, this number is increasing, as more are able to slowly return.

Bringing HOINA's children back safely onto the campus has been a bit tricky. Each one must have a negative Covid-19 test within 1-2 days of coming back on the campus. After arriving, they must wear a mask at all times and keep a safe distance from the others for a few days. After that, they can join the rest of the boys and girls as normal. We are incredibly thankful to report that absolutely no children have gotten Covid-19! They are all in great health, and happy to be back. We could not be more thankful to report this good news during a time of such difficulty.



Alexis & Niharika

At the moment, schools have reopened for 6th standard [grade] and above. We are still waiting on the

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green light to bring the 5th-grade-and-below students back but expect that to happen at any time now.

The children have been exceedingly joyful to come home to HOINA and be reunited with their brothers and sisters after several months away! One of HOINA's 7th-grade girls, Abiya, shared, "I didn't enjoy at my house. I had so many

works in my house. I feel so happy to come to HOINA. I enjoy in HOINA so much with all my sisters. I thankful to God and Mom and all in HOINA! I feel so lucky to come back here."

Another child, Bhagya, shared, "I feel alone at my home because nobody will be there to talk or play. When I came to HOINA, I was very happy because it is so different from my home. Here, I have so many people that caring about me."

It seems that the many difficulties these children faced during the past few months melted away the moment they stepped foot on the campus. The sheer joy and excitement of being reunited with their HOINA brothers and sisters is incomparable. The look on their faces, and their happy-whispers of "Did you hear who's coming today?! I can't wait to see him/her!" shows how deeply these kids' love for one another flows.

It is often said, "We don't know what we have until we lose it." That statement rings especially true now as we realize how much we loved and missed one another when we could not be together. We pray the terrible isolation caused by Covid-19 will at least serve to deepen our love and thankfulness for one another. This Valentine's Day will be a special one at HOINA, with the children finally reunited after such a long time apart. The love the HOINA boys and girls have for one another is often the first thing visitors notice when they come on the campus. Regardless of how unconventional, our students have found a family with each other that is just as real and lasting as a biological



L to R: Ganesh, Dhanujay, Akhil, Manna Mahadev, Ashirvad, Arjun, Pavan, Sai Ram, Teja Ram, Prasad, Bhaskar, Amarnadh, Surya, Sai Sudhakar, Thirupathi, Yerrinaidu, Mohan, David

family. After several months apart, the joy these kids feel being reunited is indescribable.

The boys and girls often say, "It is impossible to be lonely at HOINA"—and after the year we've all had, this saying takes on a whole new meaning. We're so thankful that these kids have a place like HOINA to call home and 200 brothers and sisters to take the sting of loneliness away. No matter where you are, or what Covid-19 restrictions you are under today, know that you have so many of us at HOINA thinking of you and praying for you today. Without your generosity, love, support, and prayers, none of these children would have a place to call home.

After a year of tremendous loss and pain, we are beyond thankful to see things beginning to return to normal and look forward to the day when this is officially all behind us. Please keep the HOINA students in your thoughts and prayers as they return to school and try to catch up. Most children in rural villages here have no access to the technology that makes online schooling possible. Many are finding themselves nearly a year behind, and schools are scrambling to figure out how to make up for the lost time. Please also remember those who have not yet returned to the campus, that they would be able to return soon and be kept safe in the meantime. In the same way, please know that all of the HOINA boys and girls constantly think about you—their family around the world—and hope and pray that you are kept safe during these trying times. They are sending you so much love from India!

Valentine Wishes!



Pushpa & B. Lavanya send you love from the bottom of their hearts!



Happy Valentine's Day from Venkat Lakshmi & P. Jyothi!



Sushmitha and B. Sravanthi are so happy to be back home and together again!

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!

HOINA is a 501(c)3, tax-exempt organization.

Contact us 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.

Edited by Letti L. Becker
Layout by Eberly Designs
Printing by Prestige Color

Send donations and address changes to:

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Brownstown, PA 17508-0636
U.S.A.

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February 2021

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Thank you to the many donors who chose to give memorial gifts through January 12, 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

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