



NEWS FROM

HOINA

HOMES OF THE INDIAN NATION

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

Headline

LB: Please tell us a little about yourself.

RM: I am 39-year-old Ruth Mary from Chennai, a beautiful city in India. I want to share my biography. When I was 5 years old, I was admitted in HOINA in the year 1985. Let me share a bit about my life's walk, which started at HOINA.

HOINA was not just food, clothing, lodging, or even education for me. I learned many extra-curricular activities like Art and craft, Yoga, Karate, and Classical dance when I lived there, which help me in my present career.

LB: What have you been doing since graduating from HOINA?

RM: In 2004 I completed my diploma in Nursing while I was living at HOINA. After graduating, I joined a hospital as a staff nurse in New Delhi, which is the capital of India. I worked there for five years.

Later, after my marriage I worked in a local clinic to keep up with my career. Then in 2014 I joined Jothi Ebenezer School as a Preschool teacher. That same year, I completed my Montessori training. Continuously, I completed my B.Sc in Nursing in 2018. Two years later, I completed my M.Sc in Psychology.

Currently, I work as a psychologist in Revamp Hospital and am a teacher in the above-mentioned school.

LB: What part do you see HOINA playing in your success today?

RM: Everything beautiful thing happened to me by the grace of God and the confidence I gained while living at HOINA.



Ruth Mary is pictured above as a youngster at HOINA.



To the right, as a nurse.

Presence in HOINA continued

LB: You mentioned that you have married. Tell us about your family.

RM: In 2018, I got married with my better half Mr. Arockiyados. I have two children now, an elder son and younger daughter.

LB: Is there anything else you would like to tell our sponsors about your life?

RM: My spiritual growth started in HOINA. I grew up with a deep-rooted faith in the Lord. The many verses that I memorized during those days still comfort me when I am down. I also learned the discipline of early morning prayer, which works wonders in my life.

I thank God for the vision that God gave Mom to establish HOINA in India, which paved the way for many children like me to reach greater heights in life.



Ruth Mary with her family and Darlene Large.

MEET the **HOINA** BOARD

Dr. Deborah J. Marron

Dr. Deborah J. Marron is the Executive Director of the Jack McGovern Coats' Disease Foundation which raises awareness of and funds research into Coats' Disease, a rare retinal disorder that afflicts infants and children and can cause blindness. Deborah joined the HOINA Board in 2017 having been inspired by HOINA Founder Darlene Large whom she has known for nearly 17 years while serving as the Director of Alumni and Student Engagement with the Penn State Alumni Association. At the Alumni Association, Deborah led a team in developing programs, events, and services to engage alumni, volunteers, students, and donors in support of the Association's and the University's missions. Prior to her tenure at Penn State, Deborah worked in the private sector in Human Resources Management and served as Director of Career Development with several colleges and universities.

A native of Meadowbrook, Pennsylvania, Deborah earned a BA in Psychology and a Masters degree in Education from Penn State. She received a

Doctorate in Education in Behavioral Sciences and Organizational Development from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Deborah and her husband live in Pennsylvania Furnace, Pennsylvania.



A few weeks ago, I had a chance to go to an island in the Caribbean on a business trip with Bruce. It proved to be a disappointing journey due to the dangers on the island. Crime was prevalent, and we were virtual prisoners on the hotel campus. I sat quilting and thought, "Why in the world did God bring me here? I could have quilted at home instead of in this heat. The last thing I need is to spend another week of my life in heat and humidity." . .

As one day passed and the next arrived, I began to meet some of the people and their spouses who attended the seminars. I realized, quickly, why God brought me there. They were wonderful. . . . We shared blessings and joy and so much laughter, and at times a few tears as well. . . .

One of the highlights of my week was Chidi. Chidi [grew up in] Nigeria. Her husband works with Bruce. Chidi and I prayed and studied the Bible together. We talked about the differences in the cultures in India, Nigeria, and the USA. One day we talked about the First Lady, Hillary Clinton's statement, "It takes a village to raise a child."

Chidi said, ". . . The child belongs to God first. Next, he belongs to the community. In Nigeria, we say, 'This is OUR CHILD.' If someone says, 'This is my child, my child, my child, etc.,' the villagers will correct that person and say, 'No, it is not. He is OUR CHILD.'"

"Because of this, people expect you to correct or caution a child if he is doing something wrong. If a child does something good, then the village expects you to praise the child. This builds confidence in the child. The villagers expect men and women to praise and build confidence. They're expected to point out the good things about that



child, ALWAYS. For example: If two children were fighting, the first thing the adult would say is, 'Wasn't anybody there?' This means, was an adult present when the incident occurred? Because if so, then he could and should have intervened and stopped the children's bad action. If an adult didn't correct or help the child or children, then the other adults in the village will correct that adult the first time. If he continues to ignore his responsibility to the children, then the other villagers will ostracize that adult."

"If a parent loses his temper and spansks the child, someone will step in and stop them so that you don't have child abuse as you do here in the USA. In the States the village doesn't raise the child. We don't become involved with our neighbor's children," she said. "Here, children often run away from home and maybe are never seen again. In Nigeria, when the child runs away from home, a neighbor or friend takes the child in for a night and a day and then takes the child home and calmly helps to resolve the problem between the mother and child. Single parents or widows who have difficult or defiant children to raise find that uncles or close male neighbors will step in and help with the problem. We think, in the USA, by turning our backs and not getting involved we are safe because it's not our problem. We don't want to be responsible. . . . Nigerians know that a child's bad behavior brings shame on the whole community. . . ."

We can all be a part of raising productive, responsible, and contributing future citizens of our community, our country, and our world.

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

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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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June 2021

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