



NEWS FROM

HOINA

HOMES OF THE INDIAN NATION

P.O. Box 636, Brownstown, PA 17508-0636 • www.hoina.org • **March 2022**

A Chance at Life

By Sharmila, HOINA Graduate

I am Sharmila. I don't remember much about when I first came to HOINA. I was told that I was around three years old when I came, and I came to HOINA because both my parents had passed away. We are three sisters of whom I am the oldest. My sister Priyanka got married and has a husband who takes good care of her. My youngest sister, Nanditha, is working at a Call Center in Chennai.

When our parents passed away, we were brought to HOINA. Since the time I can remember anything about my childhood, it is only HOINA everywhere. My parents were my housemother and housefather, and not just one but a few mothers to take care of us. I ended up with tens of siblings, older and younger. My childhood is so much memories I have of all the playground fun, dances, etc. I am so glad to be in the HOINA family.

The best thing I love about HOINA is that they bring up all the kids in a very disciplined manner, which is helping me now. I also love how they teach us all the activities—dancing, tailoring, music, arts, and all other activities. I still remember that any time we participated in any competitions, people would be saying, "Oh, no, the HOINA kids are here," since we always bagged the prizes.

Over the years I always treasured my time with Mom, and the time she spent with us. No matter how tired she was, she always made sure to sit with us for prayer and talk to us about life. She always advised us two things: (1) She always said to get educated so to never have to depend on someone, and (2) when we get married that we should not tolerate it if our husband is abusive.

Another sweet memory that I always remember is when I was in ninth grade and Papa showed us older



Sharmila's bright smile today.

girls what a credit card is. He explained how it works, the process behind the credit system, and the economics. It made me really happy that he took time to teach us that.

Whenever my sponsor came to India, she would take personal interest in me and ask to see my bed, ask details about me, to know about me, and she wrote letters to me. It is a really happy feeling we get when someone takes time for us and talks to us.

Mom kindly sent us to English Medium School to have education. After my high school, I did a diploma course, and was wondering what to do next. Mr. Anand and Bujji

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Sir guided me towards the engineering course, seeing my aptitude in sciences. I had a whole year that I was waiting, unable to decide and not knowing if my goal was even a possibility. During this time, HOINA was so kind and gave me time to figure things out. I would teach the little kids with their studies and help in daily chores. When Mom came that time, she asked me what I wanted to do next. Very timidly, I told her that I want to do B. Tech (Bachelors in Technology). Then mom told me that there was a sponsor, who was looking forward to helping me with my studies. I didn't ever think that would happen. This was one of the happiest moments in my life.

Every day I used to come back from college, and my sisters in HOINA greeted me with their smiles. Whenever I had a bad day, I used to feel better because of their love for me. After I successfully finished my Bachelors in Computer Engineering, I got a job in a well-reputed company. Through that job now I can build my life step by step. I am grateful to Mom because she made the good path to build my life. I learned a lot from Mom, like caring and loving my people and most of all I learned to always wear a smile on my face.

Along with doing my job, I am currently looking for other learning opportunities. I love teaching, and some day would love to teach in the computer engineering side. My goal in life is to bring changes in the teaching programs. I did not like how they teach when I was in school and college, where everything is memorized blindly. I want to and like to teach with hands-on skills, where the students' skills and aptitudes can be included in the teaching. Last but not the least, I want to get married and settle down and have a happy family.

Ever since I was at a certain age when I could think, I always used to think that just like HOINA took in all three of us sisters, one day I want to sponsor three kids myself. I am asking God to help me with that. Right now, though, I want to go to the HOINA home often and be a big sister to the girls there now.

HOINA is my family, and the only family that I know. The only home that I know. I am always thankful to Mom because she loved and cared for each of us equally and loved us as if she was our own mother. I want to say thank



The three sisters, pictured left to right: Priyanka, Nanditha, and Sharmila.

you to my sponsors and all sponsors for helping all of us. I love you very much for saving me and my sisters. I want to encourage all HOINA children to keep working hard and don't give up on their dreams.

A Note from HOINA Executive Director, Glory:

In a world where millions of children are targeted every day, being an orphan, a child, and a girl, especially—these kids would have been extremely susceptible and the number one target for child trafficking and abuse. In fact, I doubt all three of them would have made it this far, but thankfully, we don't have to think about that outcome. Today, these three beautiful young ladies are standing tall, with a smile, with a childhood filled with memories, and hundreds of siblings. Sharmila not only knows that she wants to give back to someone else, but also is dreaming of a better tomorrow, not just for her but for other children.

William Ngwako Maphoto said, "Each sunrise gives hope to your dreams, and light to your plans." Our sponsors are that sunrise for the HOINA children's dreams. Thank you, you, and you for joining hands in this mission—one to protect lives, to help make dreams come true, and to give children a chance at life!

HOINA Founder Darlene Large's 87th birthday is at the end of this month. Surely, many of you have received a card or letter over the years from her own hand. You would give her such joy by dropping her a line. She loves to go to her mailbox and find news from HOINA friends since she doesn't get to travel to see you personally much anymore. You can write to her at:



Darlene Large
514 NW Murray Rd, Apt. 112
Lee's Summit, MO 64081



FROM OUR ARCHIVES

*From March 2012 Newsletter (edited for space)
by Darlene Large, HOINA President*

It was early on a mid-January morning when I came out of my apartment above the girls' home near Visakhapatnam and looked down into the courtyard that borders four dormitories. I noticed five little girls huddling in a circle, shivering, and hugging one another to stay warm. The temperature was about 48-50 degrees, and they wore sleeveless cotton dresses with no socks, no sweaters, or coats. In their tropical climate, anything below 65 is considerably cold to them. This year has been an unusually cold season for them at a time when they are normally used to lovely San Diego-like temperatures in the balmy 70s.

I called the little girls upstairs to my apartment. One of our visiting volunteers had been kind enough to bring us a large hockey bag containing hoodies and sweatshirts from a kindergarten class near Kansas City, Missouri. The children had collected many different sizes and colors as a Christmas service project. Along with those, the York College student volunteers from Pennsylvania had brought other beautiful ones. With all of these donations, we had enough hoodies and sweatshirts to outfit all HOINA's boys and girls from

toddlers up to the big boys. We were short only 13 for our larger teenaged boys. After we handed out what we had, I made a call to Papa Bruce who was still in the U.S. He went out to buy those last 13 and brought them to us when he arrived in mid-January, so now all HOINA boys and girls have something warm to wear.

The children kept thanking us again and again. They were very grateful. They wore them in the early morning until it was time for school and the sun was up and warming things a bit. Then they folded them and placed them under their pillows before going off to school. In the late afternoon as the wind picked up and temperatures again dropped, the children would don their hoodies and play cricket or swing on the swingset or just hang out with their friends. It was as if a smiley virus had infected our campus.



HOINA is a 501(c)3, tax-exempt organization.
Contact us at:
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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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March 2022 

- I want to Sponsor a HOINA boy / girl (circle one). Here is my **first** monthly gift of \$35.
- Please accept this gift of \$ _____ in honor of HOINA's 50th Anniversary
- Please use this gift of \$ _____ for the general fund.
- This gift of \$ _____ is in honor / memory of _____
(circle one)

(please give name and address of person): _____

(please print clearly)

- OR please consider donating online at www.hoina.org**

All donations are tax deductible.



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Future Doctor Needs Help Achieving Her Dreams

After doing the "Covid shuffle" for two years, we are pleased to ask for help sponsoring 10-year-old Lisha Majji. She and her two siblings come from the tribal areas around our HOINA home. After their parents got married, her father began working in the mining quarries to make better wages, until he was in a fatal on-the-job accident. After being a stay-at-home mom to then caring for three young children with no income, his widow started working as a daily laborer. As the children grew bigger, she approached HOINA seeking admission for her children. Seeing the family's economical condition, we took Lisha into our home.

Lisha always carries a sweet smile, and she loves tigers. She aspires to become a doctor when she grows up.

A small child with big dreams: would you be willing to help her achieve her dream?

