



# NEWS FROM HOINA HOMES OF THE INDIAN NATION

P.O. Box 636, Brownstown, PA 17508-0636 • [www.hoina.org](http://www.hoina.org) • April 2023

## Fences, Faith, and Family

By Tom Yohe,  
HOINA Board Treasurer



A fence marks the border along the road leading to the HOINA campus. Unlike the wall that surrounds the remainder of the property and is imbedded on top with glass shards to keep out wild dogs and other critters, the fence along the road invites passersby to look in and see the beauty that is everywhere on the campus.

On each section of the fence, the names of contributors to the building up of HOINA's work—either through their gifts, their prayers, and/or their service—are emblazoned on brightly painted iron relief. These names testify to the faithfulness of each supporter of Darlene's vision for HOINA.

I have heard Darlene Large, HOINA's founder, say multiple times that HOINA is not her work, but God's work. Yet as I walked around the

campus, I saw my artist friend's touch everywhere. The rainbow of color, the mosaic tilework, the artwork on the outer wall, the gratitude expressed on the plaques and on the signs around the grounds and on the fence, all reflect Darlene's personality, training, and faithfulness. Her unbounded faith in a loving God is the bedrock of HOINA.

That faith is expressed in the messages on the mosaic tile work, the signs inside the walls, the naming of the quiet places around the campus, and the children's daily routine setting aside quality time for prayer and study. The hand of God building up the faith of many people is evident everywhere I walked on HOINA's campus.

Our Lancaster, PA, office has only one sign on the wall. It reads "We Don't Believe in Miracles, We Rely Upon



Them." HOINA is a living miracle situated in the middle of rural Andhra Pradesh, India.

The way Darlene tells it explains it best:

- When she was ten years old, God told her He wanted her to minister to Indian children.
- At 30 she suffered an illness and promised God she would work with Indians if He would allow her to see her own children grow to adults.

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## Fences, Faith, and Family continued

- She tried working with Native American “Indians” of the Southwest U.S., but with no results.
- She traveled to India and saw a need there to help abandoned and orphaned children.
- Believing Romans 1:17 she went from “faith to faith” for over 45 years to provide a beautiful campus where up to 200 children are fed, housed, educated, and sent into the world as productive citizens of India.

HOINA is a living testament to how faith in the miraculous nature of God changes the world.

This piece of land with its nurtured shrubs, grass, and trees; its decorated and soundly built structures; and its brightly painted walls and fences is nothing more than the physical foundation of HOINA’s true building—the HOINA Family.

Currently, over 150 children live on campus. A handful studying for advanced degrees live off campus, yet still rely on HOINA for educational funding and support. The staff of 35+ manage the campus, provide oversight for the children, drive the buses that transport the children, cook the meals, clean the younger children’s clothes, and maintain the grounds. They all are vital members of the HOINA family. The “graduates” of HOINA number in the



HOINA Board member Tom Yohe enjoys a field trip with the girls.

thousands, with many maintaining an active interest in HOINA’s mission and continuing as committed members of the HOINA family.

Many whose names adorn the HOINA fence have now passed on, yet they are solemnly remembered as members of the HOINA family. None are more critical to the continuing miracle that is the HOINA family than you who continue to lift up the work with your prayers and financial support. We thank you, and we thank God for building the HOINA Family.



### Please Forgive Us

*Editor’s Note:* Previously, we published that you should have had your tax statements by the end of January. Unfortunately, our Executive Director and Board Treasurer were both in India then. Those statements have now been sent. If you don’t have yours, please call our office immediately at 717.355.9494.



Above left: HOINA guest, Kate Snader, pauses outside HOINA’s quiet blessing grove. She visited our campus this winter with her grandfather, HOINA Treasurer Tom Yohe. Above: This children’s playground is named for Tom’s HOINA predecessor, Amy Mowbray, another honored HOINA friend.



# Family Reunion

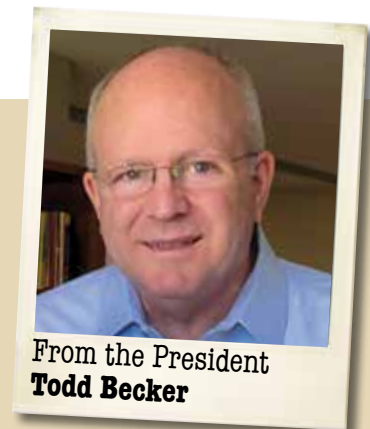
By Kate Snader

During my time at HOINA this winter, I took a two-day trip. We were going to meet with some HOINA graduates from the former HOINA boys' home at Bapatla. I knew it was going to be a special time from the moment that we walked up to the house of one of the graduates. The first thing I saw was Madhu's front door of beautiful, polished wood. Carved into the door is the HOINA logo. I saw that HOINA was a special place from the moment I entered the campus, but to see someone who grew up there place the logo on his front door where he and the world would see it every day confirmed for me that HOINA is so much more than an orphanage. It is a place that children proudly and thankfully call home.

After admiring the door, we all piled into Madhu's living room and sat down. The HOINA graduates were all talking to each other in Telegu, but I didn't have to understand the language to see the joy on their faces and watch them smile, laugh, share stories, hug, and reminisce. They were so excited and clearly comfortable with one another. They listened to Todd, Dave, Tom, and Glory speak. They shared their stories and offered suggestions on how to improve HOINA.

I didn't see a room full of men who were once orphans, semi-orphans, or destitute children. I saw a room full of successful brothers who loved and cared for each other. As they told stories of when they were growing up, teased one another, and reminisced on their days at HOINA, I realized this wasn't a get together with old friends. I was witnessing a family reunion.

From the words of one of the older girls at HOINA, "HOINA is the biggest and best family, and I am so thankful to be a part of it." The Lord is clearly blessing the work in India that He began through one willing worker, Mrs. Large. My trip to Bapatla proved that HOINA is a beautiful, strong, and growing family where people find the love and support needed to thrive and become successful members of Indian society.



Greetings from India!

Proverbs 22:6 states: "Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it." I have experienced this truth so many times over the last three months. The HOINA adults continue to bless me in so many ways. Be they Hindu, Muslim, or Christian, our graduates reflect their diverse backgrounds. The common bond that knits them together is each one's personal HOINA experience. All of them will eagerly tell you their unique stories. Just ask. Each will recount how God's work through HOINA transformed their life. They are eternally grateful for the grace imparted to them. To enumerate the individual names is too long a list, and I am sure I would leave some out. To not mention some names would be terribly wrong. In no particular order here are some of them, Hanumantha Rao, Henry Joseph, Ruth Mary, Mary, S. Chandran, Manchodu, Shalini, U. Madhu, Durga Prasad, and Shadrach. "Thank you" is too small a phrase to carry the gratitude I have for the sacrifice these men and women have made to help me. Then again, maybe they are the perfect two words.

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

**Contact us at:**

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Email address: [contact@hoina.org](mailto:contact@hoina.org)

Website: [www.hoina.org](http://www.hoina.org)

This newsletter is published to inform our readers of the work HOINA does among the handicapped and abandoned in India.

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**Send donations and address changes to:**

HOINA

PO Box 636

Brownstown, PA 17508-0636

U.S.A.

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.

## HOINA Sponsor and Contribution Coupon

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Mail coupon to: **HOINA**  
**PO Box 636**  
**Brownstown, PA 17508-0636**



April 2023 

- I want to Sponsor a HOINA boy / girl (circle one). Here is my **first** monthly gift of \$35.
- I know many needs exist on campus to keep HOINA running well. Let my gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_ help fund the general expenses of HOINA as it cares for the kids.
- This gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_ is in honor / memory of \_\_\_\_\_  
(circle one)  
(please print the name and address of person): \_\_\_\_\_

**OR please consider donating online at [www.hoina.org](http://www.hoina.org)**

All donations are tax deductible.



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## A Dream to be a Doctor

This April we feature a teenager with a passion for biology, who aspires to be a doctor. She has been with us for a time and hasn't yet had the joy of corresponding with a sponsor. P. Mahima Rao will be 15 this year, and she was born an only child. She was raised primarily by her father until he left her with his parents. Mahima's grandparents raised her until they found it increasingly difficult to take care of Mahima given their old age, health issues, and poor financial condition. Sadly, Mahima's grandfather passed away recently in Nov 2022, leaving her with only her paternal grandmother. She is grateful for her HOINA family.

Would you like to support her with a monthly gift of \$35/month to HOINA? Even though Mahima is a teenager already, she has big plans and will need HOINA's help for years into the future. You can sign up on our website at [www.hoina.org](http://www.hoina.org), or you can return your first gift with the coupon above. Thank you for your generous help!

