



NEWS FROM

HOINA

HOMES OF THE INDIAN NATION

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

The Torch Has Been Passed

By Todd Becker, HOINA President

[Editor's Note: The USA board has formally elected Todd Becker to the position of President. He addresses our readers as he takes the reins from HOINA's Founder, Darlene Large. As you'll see, God has prepared him for such a time as this.]

In our September 2021 issue, Mom announced her retirement from her role as President of HOINA. Retirement is not a truly Christian concept as we are called to serve and mentor those around us until we join our fathers. It is no different for Mom. She is retiring from the formal leadership role but not truly leaving the work. She will remain a mentor and coach to all of us actively engaged in the daily work of leading the HOINA team in India. For her personal desire to remain engaged as a counselor and guide, we are thankful.

As I write this article, I am nearing the end of my second trip to India in the last four months. I have learned so much; and yet, I have so much more to

learn. My wife Letti and I can now see how God has planned my life's education, work, leadership, and family experiences for me to step in as President of HOINA. I invite you to join me as I step back in time, peeking into pieces of my past.



HOINA Founder and past president Darlene Large with Todd Becker, newly-elected president and managing trustee.

My father's career advancement required our family to relocate from one state to another about every three years. My father was tough, and he was a problem-solver who never found a challenge he was unwilling to solve—sometimes at personal risk. I inherited that trait from him. Our travel and changing surroundings helped shape my personality because each location had its own ethnic groups and sub-cultures. I found the changes energizing. During my senior year of high school, I took a two-week school trip to

Spain. The trip included touring for a week and living in a home with a Spanish family for another week. What a great experience to share family life with people who have a completely different culture and language.

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Torch Passes (continued)

In the later 1970s I had my heart set on attending The Pennsylvania State University a.k.a. Penn State. When my family moved from Pennsylvania to Minnesota my senior year of high school, that goal became unattainable in the short-term; however, I would soon learn that God can make a way where there is no way. My best friend in Pennsylvania was Dirk Large. Dirk's sister was Letti Large. Dirk's Dad and Mom were HOINA's Papa Bruce and Darlene "Mom" Large, who were both Penn State alumni. When I graduated high school, the Large family invited me to leave Minnesota to live with them while I gained in-state residency, so I could eventually attend Penn State. Just six months previously, Raja Kumari had joined the family from India. We two became the "extra" Larges. Thus, in a period of six months, the Large family grew from four to six.

Before and during my Penn State time (yes, I finally got there), I worked for Weaver's, a local chicken factory where Bruce was leading the Research and Development department. I graduated with a B.S. in Operations Management and went to work for Ford Motor Company in Detroit as a computer programmer. While at Penn State, I successfully nominated Mom for Penn State's highest honor, the Distinguished Alumni Award. Obviously, she won for her humanitarian work with HOINA. Mom asked me to join the HOINA board shortly after graduation, and I served for many years as a USA board member. I purchased the first computer for HOINA and wrote the software program for tracking sponsors, children, finances, etc., which remained in place until recently.

The 1990s saw Letti and I married, Elsie born, with our Dirk following two years later. We continued to host and operate the HOINA USA office from our home for many years. Letti edited this newsletter after her college graduation and continues to do so today. We both left the USA Board as I transitioned into a demanding career, increasing leadership responsibilities, and plenty of travel. I became an elder at our small bible church in 2005. Meanwhile, Letti was busy supporting Mom, coordinating and editing the monthly HOINA newsletter, educating our children as a homeschooling



Todd with Letti and the rest of the Missouri Large clan in 2005.

mom, and running the home, including keeping my feet on the ground when they were not in the air.

I have worked for companies spanning 15 industries, sometimes as an employee and at other times as a consultant. From entrepreneurial start-up and turn-around organizations to global Fortune 50 corporations, I have had the pleasure of experiencing the depth and breadth of business. My career has taken me to assignments all over the USA, as well as to Canada, Mexico, Germany, Hong Kong, and China. Indian consultants and contractors were commonplace in my technology workplace. Working odd hours and communicating with people of different ethnic backgrounds was simply part of a normal day for me.

As the years passed, I continued to discuss HOINA with Mom, view the pictures of the children and the campus construction projects, and listen to stories about the staff and the many supporters both domestic and abroad. HOINA as an organization was also growing from the infant born in India in 1978 to a full-grown adult with much greater needs and responsibilities—from a small rented home with just one staff person and seven children to a campus with two homes, 25 staff, and 150 children. To meet the mature needs of the organization, Mom eventually was spending six months

Torch Passes (continued)

out of every year in India. She traveled on a rotation of three months home in the USA followed by three months in India year after year. I have a much greater appreciation for the physical and mental fatigue from the travel alone now that I have traveled to India twice in the past four months.

I truly enjoy the food, people, and culture of India. The staff and children have welcomed me with open arms. The hospitality of the Indian culture is second to none, and they all work hard to make sure all my needs are met. In turn, I am committed to building on the foundation Mom has spent so many years to lay. "Mom's Rules" still rule and will not be compromised. I look forward to meeting many of you in the coming months and years. I will also be sharing regularly the exciting events and changes as they occur. May God bless each of you as you sacrifice from what He has provided for you and your family to help our children in India.



Year-end Giving

How grateful we are for each donation made to HOINA! Please help us serve you better by sending your donations to our office by Dec. 31. We want to be sure to record your donations in the current tax year so our records match yours.

Please Pray

HOINA Board Member, Dr. David Fyfe, will be taking another group of his York College students to visit HOINA later this month into January. We ask for your prayers on their behalf, that they would have safe travels and good health, and would find this trip to be the life-changing experience that so many other York students have enjoyed. Expect to hear from them in some of our 2023 newsletter issues.

Our Wall Is Rebuilt

You may remember from November 2021's front page article that Cyclone Gulab dropped more than 11 inches of rain in a 24-hour period. That flooding inundated



our campus, destroying part of our concrete property wall. The new wall you see pictured here was reconstructed while HOINA President Todd

Becker was overseas on his last trip. If you go online to HOINA's home page, you can review the pictures of the flood, and you'll see just how big a fix this repair is. Go to www.hoina.org and use the "Latest Updates" tab to find the November issue from last year. Your gifts to our building fund are used for repairs such as this.

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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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

Name: _____

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I want to Sponsor a HOINA boy / girl (circle one).
Here is my **first** monthly gift of \$35.

Please use this gift of \$ _____ for the general fund.

Please use this gift of \$ _____ for construction projects.

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

All donations are tax deductible.

Mail coupon to: **HOINA**
PO Box 636
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December 2022 



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Lancaster, PA

Sweet Girl Looking for Sponsor

Now a full orphan, Joshitha came to live at HOINA in 2019 when her grandmother brought her to us. Joshitha and her elder sister lived happily with their parents until their father passed away from kidney problems. Two years later, their mother died from bone cancer, and they became their grandmother's wards. She became unable to care for them due to her poverty.

We are looking for a generous person to sponsor Joshitha. She likes to play badminton and hopes to be a teacher someday. Can you help us help her? If so, please return the coupon on this page and return it with your first monthly donation of \$35.

