



NEWS FROM

HOINA

HOMES OF THE INDIAN NATION

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

An Old Friend Returns to HOINA

By Todd Becker, HOINA Board member

As HOINA's most-recently elected U.S. Board Member, I am pleased to give you my impressions about my recent trip to India. I spent four weeks overseas this summer, meeting HOINA's Executive Director, Glory Janes, there to see the work.

As this was my first trip to India since 1995 when I traveled with my wife Letti, HOINA's newsletter editor, I saw so many changes. My 1995 trip took me to Chennai and Bapatla in southern India. India's culture, economy, and infrastructure have made great leaps forward in the last 27 years. This year I landed in Visakhapatnam, whose geography is absolutely gorgeous both from the air and on land. A beautiful coastal city with deep history and heritage, it is easy to like and enjoy.

HOINA's main campus is on a large 20+ acre parcel of land in rural India. The campus is encompassed with a physical wall for the entire perimeter. The wall is a combination of solid concrete and grill-style fencing in some places. Two locked entry gates along the main road from



Article author and newest HOINA Board Member, Todd Becker, on his recent trip to India.

the village add security. A stream runs through the property as an additional feature.

Mom's influence can be seen everywhere through mosaic tile pictures, art, and color. HOINA's campus is not the average orphanage in India. The campus is not just functional, it is a beautiful expression of God's creation.

The size and scope of the work is remarkable. The daily functioning of

the homes, kitchens, transportation, and staff is good. As with any organization, opportunities to improve exist but nothing requiring urgent attention. Covid-19 had a significant impact on HOINA children and staff as children were sent home to any family they had per the Indian government's requirements during their lockdown. Thankfully, HOINA survived the pandemic and has roughly 130

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students back on campus with 15 new invitations in-process. Our goal is to return to a 100+ headcount in each of our homes (boys' and girls').

While overseas, Glory and I also traveled to the Bapatla area to visit HOINA's on-going work there. Once a quiet village, Bapatla is now a rapidly growing district and educational center in the state. The main road through town is being widened to accommodate the additional traffic as pedestrians, dogs, cows, water buffalos, scooters, motorcycles, rickshaws and auto-rickshaws, cars, buses, and lorries compete for position. I think you get the idea.

In Bapatla Dr. Solomon and his wife hosted both Glory and me, as well as HOINA Trustee Mr. Roberts and his wife for a western dinner. Dr. Solomon is one of the longest-serving HOINA trustees in India. His entire family was home including children and grandchildren. We enjoyed southern Indian hospitality at its finest.

Nearby is a small seaside fishing village, Pandurangapuram, on the coast of the Bay of Bengal. HOINA's lunch program started in the 1990s after a cyclone devastated this community, killing so many of the fishermen, and leaving many widows. Most families nearest the beach lost their mud and straw homes and all of their possessions.

The widow's lunch program is still being served to roughly 35 people there. Some of those who enjoy the program are no longer able to walk from the village to HOINA's land where we serve the lunch, so we take the lunch to them after everyone else has eaten. Personal home delivery shows HOINA's love for those in need. Home delivery allows everyone to be taken care of—HOINA style.

No trip to Bapatla would be complete without a visit with some of the HOINA Graduates! Glory and I were blessed to be cared for from the moment we got off the train until the boys, now men, put us back on the train a couple days later. We stayed at the hotel Mudarsil helps manage and were transported everywhere by Sivaiah. Durga Prasad served as

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Mudarsil (below in suit) works at a local hotel where he hung this banner to greet his honored guest, Todd Becker, when he arrived in Bapatla.



Sivaiah, Mudarsil, HOINA Executive Director Glory Janes, and U. Madhu, who hosted the event at his home. (You can read more about him by going to our website and looking at the "Latest News" tab to find the October 2021 newsletter.)



Some of the HOINA grads who gathered at U. Madhu's house. Left to right: Koti Reddy, Veera Swamy, Durga Prasad, Naga Anjaneyulu, Israil, and Rajesh.

Friend Returns (continued)

my Telegu translator, and we feasted and fellowshiped together with about 25 others at Madhu's house! Madhu and his family were featured in the October, 2021, newsletter. While the time was very short, I greatly enjoyed meeting the graduates and their children and hearing their inspiring stories.

The HOINA board feels that our graduates are the strongest advocates for the HOINA program. Creating an alumni network to harness their stories, talent, and passion for the work is essential to the future of the organization.

While you are reading this, I am likely headed home from my second trip to India this year. As always, I with the other board members, the staff, and children of HOINA appreciate your gifts and prayers for this work as we care for the less fortunate among us.



More of the HOINA grads, now men, at Madhu's home: Left to right: Sundar Rao, Shadrach, Durga Prasad (sitting), Ch. Nagaraju, Todd Becker, Veera Swamy, O. Rama Rao (seated on floor), and M. Prakash (seated in chair), who has been to the U.S. for polio-correction surgery.

Struggling Siblings Now Safe

Teja Sri A. celebrated her birthday in August. She was brought to HOINA in September of last year with her older brother, Hemanth A. Their parents had a difficult marriage to say the least, and when their father tragically died some relatives brought the siblings to HOINA.

Teja Sri loves dogs, the color green, and playing hide and seek. She hopes to grow up to be a doctor someday! Her big brother has more grown up ideas of fun—he enjoys volleyball and hopes to join the Indian Army when he finishes school.

We are bringing in more children all the time. Can you find a place to cut your budget and sponsor one of these children for \$35 per month? Your tax-deductible donation will cover their food, clothing, school tuition, books and uniforms, medical care, and provide a loving



Teja Sri (age 7)



Hemanth (age 12)

home for each of them. We are grateful that both children were able to be accepted into HOINA, where they can be nurtured after their earlier traumatic years.

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

Contact us at:
717.355.9494

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Website: 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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October 2022 

- 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 Christmas fund.
- Please use this gift of \$ _____ for the general fund.
- This gift of \$ _____ is in honor / memory of _____
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OR please consider donating online at www.hoina.org

All donations are tax deductible.



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GIVING TUESDAY

Mark your calendar for Giving Tuesday 2022, which falls on November 29th. This year, donate online at our website www.hoina.org. Your gifts will help us continue to rescue abandoned and orphaned children from the villages, streets, and slums surrounding Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh, India.

Christmas Needs

Would you consider helping us provide a Christmas celebration for our children and staff?

HOINA's Christmas Fund allows us to buy gifts for all of our children—making sure each boy and girl receives something special—and, when funds allow, to give bonuses to our Indian staff members who do so much to run our homes with dignity and love.

Please donate online at www.hoina.org or mark your coupon appropriately when you return it with your gift to our address in Brownstown, PA.

