

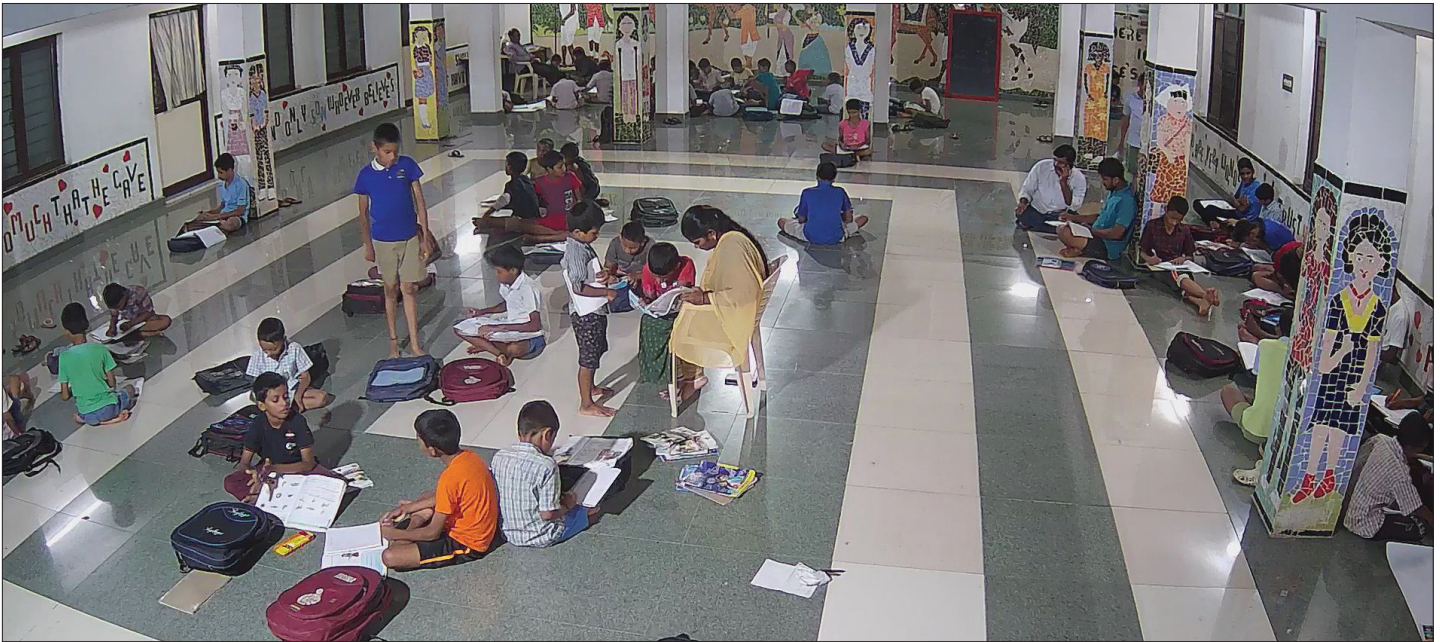


NEWS FROM HOINA HOMES OF THE INDIAN NATION

P.O. Box 636, Brownstown, PA 17508-0636 • www.hoina.org • October 2023

Summer Summary and School News

By Glory Janes, HOINA Executive Director



Pictured above is a typical evening study session at the boys' home.

After a slow summer of quiet and extreme heat, HOINA is back to the hustle and bustle of everyday life with our children. The new academic year has begun and is busier than ever. This year we have 37 new kids, out of which 19 are boys and 18 are girls. Of those 37 we have six sets of siblings. Some of our new admissions are total orphans while others come from extreme poverty. We're excited about these numbers since we haven't taken in this many new kids in a while. Of course, more children mean more work for our staff, as well as the need for more planning, more funds, and ultimately more lives changed. Everyone endured the initial months' activity of purchasing and distributing new uniforms, shoes, backpacks, and

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We are proud to feature Majji Lisha, who was given an award for excellence in her grades and for showing discipline and good conduct. She was awarded 5000 rupees from her school. When asked by the house parents what she wanted as a reward, she asked for a watch.



Summer Summary & School News continued

supplies. Now the children and staff have developed a routine with school and campus schedules. Classes have begun, assignments and testings are happening, sports are starting; and unfortunately, so are the accidents and illnesses that come along with an active school year.

Surya, one of our 5th graders, broke his arm, and he is still in an arm cast. Our campus had a bad bout of conjunctivitis. Many of the children and even some of our staff had pink eye, which we call “eye flu” in India. Every year, with the onset of the monsoons come increased humidity and flooding, causing various waterborne and mosquito-borne diseases to occur and spread. The good news is that most people recover within 5-7 days. The bad news is that the staff had a particularly difficult time since we had 18 kids affected at one point. Taking care of them while taking precautions to prevent spread was no easy task. We are pleased to report that they did a fantastic job, and now the campus and homes are pink eye-free. The coming months will bring the flu season, called “viral fever” in India. We are keeping the children on Vitamin C and supplements along with home-grown produce to help their bodies develop as much immunity as possible.

Speaking of rains and produce, our gardens are in bloom. The produce we are getting now is mostly greens like spinach, collard greens, and plantains. Once the heat settles down, we will be able to grow the cooler crops, which is a relative term in South India as our temperatures don't drop beneath pleasant autumn days in the United States.

We did have an unwanted “visitor” a couple of weeks ago. Mr. Python decided to take a stroll across the HOINA campus. Our night watchman, who was making his rounds by tapping his rod, found him lurking around. The python was about four feet long and appeared to be a young one. While pythons are not venomous, they are capable of killing small children. We offer our many thanks to our vigilant watchmen, gardeners, and staff who always stay alert to keep the children safe.

As far as the education of the children is concerned, this year we have a group of 10-12 Juniors and six Seniors, who are working hard to do well. We have enrolled a few children into Polytechnic courses, some into Bachelors programs, and some into vocational training like air conditioning repair. Some of our kids are already doing quite well with good grades. We are planning to hire two more tutors (along with the three we already featured in our January 2023 issue), specifically to help the older students in Math and Hindi. Our staff and HOINA friends overseas will focus more this year on education and vocational guidance to help our students unleash their full potential.

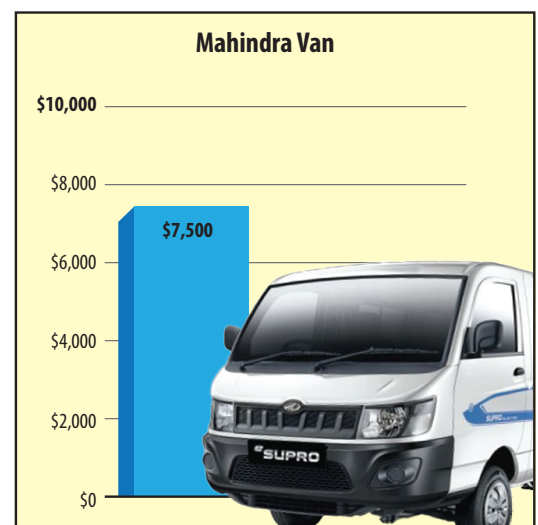
Amidst the many challenges that come with raising children and the sacrifices that many of our staff make, we remember why it is all worth it. Majji Lisha (inset page 1) is yet another child who wouldn't have had a chance had it not been for our dedicated staff and our generous donors like you. Thank you, for investing in the life of a child!



K. Surya getting his arm cast.



A python captured by watchman Vishal Bahadur. HOINA's dachshund Bruno, featured last month in the mural, observes from the background.



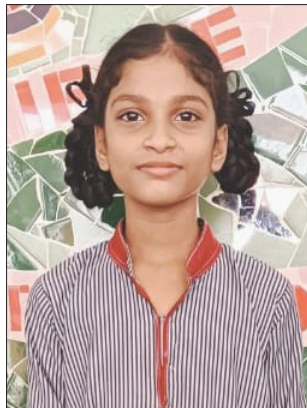
Next Generation Teacher

Fitting our back-to-school theme this month is M. Gowhami, who wants to become a teacher when she is grown up. This fifth grader is a “dog person,” whose favorite color is green. Her favorite activity is playing badminton.

The elder of two children, Gowthami was born nearly two years after her parents married. As a welder, her father was able to provide for his family, who lived happily with the income they had. However, he frequently suffered from terrible headaches. One day this spring, he was in severe pain, so his relatives admitted him to a hospital in Visakhapatnam. Not long after, he passed away. We admitted Gowthami to HOINA just two months after her father died to be sure she could be enrolled in school, which started in June. We hope she will pass many happy hours playing badminton with her new HOINA sisters and studying hard so she can teach someday.

Feel free to use the coupon on page 4 to send your first monthly gift of \$35 to sponsor Gowthami. You also have the option of donating online at our website:

hoina.org



From the President
Todd Becker

Bon Voyage!

By the time you read this, I will be overseas. I last left India toward the end of March with plans of returning in June. God had other plans for me, so I now find myself with too many high priority items to accomplish in the time before me. “Be still, and know that I am God” is on my heart for this trip. Working for the Lord is always about the journey. The destination is merely the beginning of another journey, or a little frosting on top of the cake. I would like to ask each of you to keep me and my family in your prayers.

Let me thank those of you who have given to our van purchase. Your gifts have put us at the $\frac{3}{4}$ mark of our fundraising goal (see graph on page 2). We needed the van so urgently that we purchased it and are putting it to good use. Our step of faith in buying it allows our work to continue while we depend upon God to prompt more of you to help meet the remaining need of \$2500. Any amount helps!



Remembrances

Thank you to the many donors who chose to give memorial gifts through August 2023. When requesting a gift to be listed in someone’s memory or honor, please include the name and address of the individual or family so we can send them an acknowledgment.

In Memory of

Don Emig
Maggie Goff
Nathan Gourley
Bob Hart (2)

Linda Campitelle Henderson
Bruce Large (2)
Lydia Link (2)
Nina Traina

In Honor of

Anna Ciccati
Akhoriy Jankinath
Giresh Jankinath
Darlene Large (2)
S. Ranja
Caesar & Angie Turchi

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

Contact us at:

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Email address: contact@hoina.org

Website: www.hoina.org

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

Send donations and address changes to:

HOINA

PO Box 636

Brownstown, PA 17508-0636

U.S.A.

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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.

HOINA Sponsor and Contribution Coupon

Name: _____

Address: _____

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State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

- Please use this gift of \$ _____ to help replace **HOINA's vehicles**.
- Please use this gift of \$ _____ for the **Christmas fund**.
- I want to **Sponsor** a HOINA boy / girl (circle one). Here is my **first** monthly gift of \$35.
- Here's my gift of \$ _____ to help fund the **general expenses** of HOINA as we care for the children.

Mail coupon to: **HOINA**
PO Box 636
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OR please consider donating online at www.hoina.org

All donations are tax deductible.

October 2023



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GIVING TUESDAY

Mark your calendar for Giving Tuesday 2023, which falls on November 28th. 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

We appreciate our donors who contribute to HOINA's Christmas fund to provide a gift for their child or for one without a sponsor. (Please do not send gifts directly to your sponsor child as it makes our other students without sponsors feel left out.) If there is enough money donated, you allow us to give generous bonuses to our staff as well.

Be sure your Christmas fund gift arrives in our office by early December to give us time to send it overseas.

