



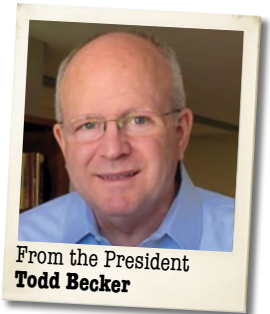
# NEWS FROM HOINA HOMES OF THE INDIAN NATION

P.O. Box 7167, Lee's Summit, MO 64064 • [www.hoina.org](http://www.hoina.org) • December 2023

## Christmas Joy

Hunting for the perfect Christmas tree is one of my strongest memories as a child. Whether we trekked through the woods or wandered through an iffy commercial lot, the pursuit was always exciting. Probing each tree revealed flaws such as a crooked trunk, dry needles, broken leader, wrong color, too short-tall-skinny-fat. Once the perfect tree was selected, we strapped it to the top of the car for the journey home. Sometimes, our eyes deceived us as the “perfect tree” might be too fat to push through the door or too tall for the

room. Hence, pruning was required. Achieving a free-standing tree in a water-filled base requires anchoring the trunk to a stair rail or other wall attachment to prevent the disaster of a toppled tree. Finally, stringing the lights and hanging ornaments create the perfect tree. Gazing upon a gently glowing tree in a dark room at the end of the night brings me a great sense of satisfaction in a job well done.



From the President  
**Todd Becker**



HOINA President Todd Becker poses with our newest 38 children who joined the HOINA family in 2023.

## Christmas Joy *continued*

Today, I use a 3-piece LED-lit tree with memory wire in the branches which defy misshaping. I simply connect the three “trunk” pieces and push a switch. Magically, the lights illuminate a perfectly shaped tree every year. The biggest debate in my house is what color the lights should be? With a modern LED tree, the lights can be any color a family member wants them to be at any point in time. Problem solved. My grown children and their friends decorate the tree with ornaments in exchange for a home-cooked meal and warm fellowship. While the effort to create the perfect tree is much less than in my childhood, I still greatly enjoy the gently glowing tree at the end of the night. The ornaments on my tree are a combination of new and old reflecting the events of my family’s life. I no longer remember all of the stories, but Letti does, and I enjoy reliving the tales with her every year.

At HOINA, after 45 years there are many tales to be told as well. HOINA has celebrated Christmas many different marvelous ways over the years. In the current iteration, HOINA celebrates Christmas three times, with each day being a little different. The first celebration is 3-5 days before December 25. India Trustees, a benefactor, and some local musicians will bring chocolates, sponsor a meal, and perhaps give a small gift to each child. A grand celebration will occur with speeches, singing, and dancing on the outdoor stage. Each child receives two new sets of clothes sewn by a local tailor on this day. The special meal finishes off the day with guests, staff, and children all enjoying heartfelt fellowship.

The second celebration occurs on December 25 and is one of reverence and holiness. Worship, singing, prayer, and stories of a Savior born many centuries ago fill the day.

The third and final celebration occurs on the day of Epiphany during the first week of January. The Epiphany celebrates the arrival of the three kings, or wise men, to

the baby Jesus. This celebration began as a way for Mom to celebrate Christmas with her family in the USA during December, and then travel to India to observe the holiday with the HOINA family at the beginning of January. Today, Glory and I travel to celebrate with the HOINA family and trustees in January. For the third celebration, each child requests one small gift and one larger gift of their choosing. Once again, the India Trustees gather with the HOINA children and staff for speeches, singing, dancing, and gifts. The night is topped off by another special meal accompanied by gracious fellowship.

We use the special Christmas funds you give toward the end of the year to cover the cost of Christmas in India. As you can imagine, the logistics of three events for roughly 200 people plus guests is no small task. The HOINA management team begins the work in October that includes completing Christmas cards for sponsors, selecting fabric for two outfits for 150 boys and girls, arranging for tailors to measure each child and custom-sew the outfits, obtaining gift wish lists and purchasing gifts, wrapping gifts, arranging guest speakers and musicians, and planning special meals—you get the idea. Last year, we were blessed to have David Fyfe’s York College of Pennsylvania team with us. They handled the majority of the gift wrapping and were a huge help in so many ways. I will miss them this year.

I find it easy to get caught up in the tyranny of the urgent rather than focusing on what is truly important. I anticipate anxiously the subtle glow of our lit tree in a quiet room to help me refocus. Reuniting with family and friends, sharing a special meal, and the joy of a special gift warm my heart. My belief and faith in a Savior born for all people more than 2,000 years ago warms my soul. It is this faith I wish to share with you today. He is the only gift that really matters.

## Semi-Orphan Needs You

Almost 13-year-old Anushka B. is an only child, who lost her mother to brain cancer just one year ago. Her father’s grief has made him unable to care for her, so one of her relatives took the initiative to approach HOINA through a nurse at a local hospital earlier this year. Anushka is studying in ninth grade, hoping to be a nurse herself one day.

Your monthly gift of \$35, would provide her with her food, clothing, medical care, shelter, and schooling. You can return the coupon on page 4 with your first check to our new financial office address (on the coupon) or donate online at [www.hoina.org](http://www.hoina.org).





If a picture is worth a thousand words, I thought I'd share a few from my most recent trip to India.



The photo at right shows the ribbon-cutting ceremony for HOINA's new work van. Lydia had the honor of cutting the white ribbon. A group of our older girls collectively prayed a blessing and dedicated the van to HOINA's service (above). Again, we thank you who gave so graciously to allow its purchase.



Another section of boundary wall collapsed during the most recent cyclone (140 feet). The mason quickly rebuilt the wall after the rains. The wall foundation was rebuilt to prevent a similar event in the future. A handful of our boys can be seen here white washing the wall. Who doesn't love to paint?

Lastly, we have beautiful sunsets on campus. I love to walk from the office back to my room in the guest house at this time of day. Enjoying God's gifts to me through his creation brings me great joy and peace.

**I wish each and every one of you a very merry Christmas this year!**

*~ Todd*



HOINA is a 501(c)3, tax-exempt organization.  
**Contact us at:**  
717.355.9494  
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.

**Send donations and address changes to:**  
HOINA  
PO Box 7167  
Lee's Summit, MO 64064 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.

Edited by Letti L. Becker • Layout by Eberly Designs

## HOINA Sponsor and Contribution Coupon

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

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E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail coupon to: **HOINA**  
**PO Box 7167**  
**Lee's Summit, MO 64064**

December 2023 



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.

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ for **Vehicle fund** or where most needed.

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.



**HOINA**  
**P.O. Box 7167**  
**Lee's Summit MO 64064**

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Non-profit Org.  
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## We Are Moving!

### Please Make Note!

In case you missed our announcement last month in the hubbub of Thanksgiving, please take note that our finance office is relocating to Missouri once again. Please use the address below for your giving.

### ACH Donors, Fear Not!

HOINA is maintaining its relationship with PNC Bank, so your online giving will not change. Those of you who write personal checks or use your own bank's bill-pay service WILL need to alert them to our new address.

**HOINA**  
**PO Box 7167**  
**Lee's Summit, MO 64064**

## 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.