



NEWS FROM

HOINA

HOMES OF THE INDIAN NATION

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Kindness Begets Kindness

By Roz Vinci

HOINA has changed not only more than 4000 lives in India but also my life in America. I was a young girl at church campouts, when I met Darlene Large (known as “Mom” at HOINA). She was the arts and crafts teacher, and her projects were the highlight of my day. Although she was teaching many kids, this was when I first experienced her gift of making one feel as if you were the only focus of her attention. I know the children of HOINA felt similarly. I am amazed at how much detail she remembers of every child: their names, the long list of circumstances that brought them to the orphanage, and most importantly, how she deciphered each child needs—whether emotional or physical. She then would find their talents and interests and nurture that child.

More than 25 years ago, I saw one of the HOINA newsletters and recognized Darlene’s name; it brought back such fun memories of my childhood time with her. Without hesitation I knew she was doing God’s work. I contacted Darlene and told her I wanted to sponsor a girl. Finding me a girl to sponsor was no random pick



After nearly 10 years of sponsorship, article author Roz Vinci meeting Ishwarya for the very first time.

from a list. Since she knew what my hair looked like: dark and curly, and unfortunately many times frizzy, she paired me with Ishwarya, who had similar hair so we “looked” like mother and daughter. Mom’s personal attention to the selection was so touching.

Immediately, I started paper correspondence with my new ward, who was only three years old at the time. Mostly our communication was one way, because Ishwarya was so little. Doting on her I would send small packages, which, of course, included a



Little Ishwarya, age approximately 3 years old.

Kindness continued

brush! And, true to form, Mom would send me a photo of Ishwarya holding my package. As she got older, I was thrilled to get a letter and a photo at Christmas time.

Happily, our relationship grew as we got to know each other. When Ishwarya was about twelve, I was blessed to go to India. Finally, I would meet her in person! As she ran to me and gave me the tightest hug, I experienced such joy to see her. She was so excited to show me her talents from athleticism (doing flips) to her scholastic achievements. We spent a good deal of time just smiling.

I would return to HOINA another seven times (almost annually). Ishwarya taught me dances we would perform together; and I would do arts and crafts projects with the children as Darlene had once taught me. As Ishwarya got older I was so proud of her when she carried out HOINA's tradition of being a big sister to the little and/or new children. Her maternal instincts were strong and growing.



Named for article author Roz Vinci is her "granddaughter" Rozvinci.



Ishwarya and Murugan beam with joy on their wedding.

Darlene's objective for HOINA was always to educate each child and make them into productive citizens (far from the situations from which they had arrived). Next, it was time for Ishwarya to attend college. She performed exceptionally well on entrance exams and in her classes and graduated with a degree in computers. She went on to a successful career with Cognizant, where she also was named top employee.

As Ishwarya looked for more in her life, she met and fell in love with Murugan. I was saddened to not attend their wedding in person; however, I woke up at 2 a.m. (my time) and, dressed in my Indian wardrobe, used WhatsApp to tune into the wedding. It turned out that my outfit and the bride's were both pink!

Recently, more than 25 years after I started this journey, I was given the loveliest blessing. Ishwarya's maternal instinct is finally fulfilled: my

"daughter" gave birth to my "granddaughter" and named her after me, calling her by my full name, "Rozvinci." I am so honored!

Although, due to Covid-19, I haven't visited HOINA in the past few years, I stay in touch through video calls. In fact, I just wished my "granddaughter" a happy second birthday.

Thank you, Darlene, for bringing such happiness to my world.

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

Contact us at:

717.355.9494

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 7167
Lee's Summit, MO 64064 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.



Ishwarya came to HOINA with her sister Saranya. Standing in front of Ishwarya is her sister's daughter. She is joined by HOINA President Todd Becker and her husband, Murugan, holding Baby Rozvinci.

A New Year's Resolution That's Easy to Keep!

Last month we featured a photo on our newsletter cover with HOINA President Todd Becker posing with our 38 news arrivals. This sweet first-grader was one of that class of children. Surya Chaturya came to live at HOINA because her single mother cannot both work full-time to provide for her daughter and remain home to take care of her. Surya's grandparents are too elderly to parent this young, energetic granddaughter. Would you make a pledge this new year to sponsor her for \$35/month? You can return the coupon on page 4 to our finance office in Lee's Summit, MO, or you can sign up online. Either way, you'll feel better about starting the new year off right!



Greetings!

As I look back on 2023, I can see evidence of God's hand on the work of HOINA. With roughly 18 months leading the organization, I am beginning to see more clearly. I have learned so much in such a short period of time. I also feel as if I'm drinking HOINA knowledge from a fire hose despite being a prior board member and living in the shadow of Darlene for the last 45 years.



From the President
Todd Becker

With new leadership comes organizational change. HOINA's roles and processes are shifting while the players remain largely the same. This newsletter has called out some of the changes over the last couple of months. I ask for your prayers and patience as we work behind the scenes to move the office from Pennsylvania to Oklahoma, coupled with the treasury function from Pennsylvania to Missouri. HOINA's Executive Director Glory Janes is building a solid base of volunteers supporting the Oklahoma office. Likewise, Randy Bentele is on-boarding as the new treasurer in Missouri. As these responsibilities shift into new hands, many of our processes are being examined and in some instances realigned.

I can see additional changes emerging from our conversations about 2024. Some of them will impact you directly. I encourage you not to be too concerned as the adjustments will be clearly communicated to you, minimizing disruption. Lastly, thank you for working with us to provide for the children we collectively provide and care for in India. The children truly have an opportunity to belong to our HOINA family and to receive a strong education while their basic life needs are being met.

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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)


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OR please consider donating online at www.hoina.org

All donations are tax deductible.

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



January 2024 



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Annual Statements

You should receive your annual giving statement from our HOINA financial office in Lee's Summit, MO, by the end of January. If yours does not arrive or if you spot an error, please alert our treasurer Randy Bentele immediately at info@HOINA.org so that we can correct it for you. Your generous support of our work makes all of this possible. Thank you!

Great News!

We've moved HOINA's Founder, Darlene Large, to a lovely apartment. She'd be happy to hear from you.

Darlene Large
Village Assisted Living
Apt. 133
1704 NW O'Brien Rd.
Lee's Summit, MO 64081

GIVING TUESDAY

Thanks to those of you who remembered HOINA on Giving Tuesday this year. We raised nearly \$3,000 that day alone! Your gifts to our general fund allow us to use your donation where we need it most. We appreciate all of our donors and look forward to great new things God will do through you in 2024.