



NEWS FROM

HOINA

HOMES OF THE INDIAN NATION

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Sponsors Give More than Just Money

By Letti Becker, Newsletter Editor with Roz Vinci, HOINA Sponsor

Once upon a time, HOINA had boys and girls living together in one home in India, outside of Chennai, where people speak Tamil. The boys eventually moved to a different property in Andhra Pradesh (A.P.) State while the girls remained in the first home HOINA built with the help of Lions Club International in the 1980s. The boys made the shift to speaking Telegu once they were settled in A.P. Eventually, HOINA purchased its current property of 20+ acres outside of Visakhapatnam and built a home where the boys could live. While the boys lived in that building, HOINA expanded by constructing another home for the girls to inhabit on the same acreage. Ultimately, the boys moved to the mostly finished new home, and we moved the girls into the completed home the boys had been inhabiting. Read on to hear the tale of that move from last month's featured author, Roz Vinci, long-time sponsor and HOINA friend.

"After following the growth of HOINA for years, I saw a new need. In the year when HOINA's final move was to take place, I read in the news-



A job well done! HOINA boys pose with their completed library.

letter what a challenge it would be to move 100 kids and staff 500 miles north to a new state. I picked up the phone and asked [HOINA's Founder] Darlene Large if she could use some help. Within a week I was back in India for another trip. We were attempting this monumental task during India's summertime (read: 120° and 100% humidity). Wow!

"I went to the boys' home to ready the campus for the girls' arrival. I had been to India, but on my previous

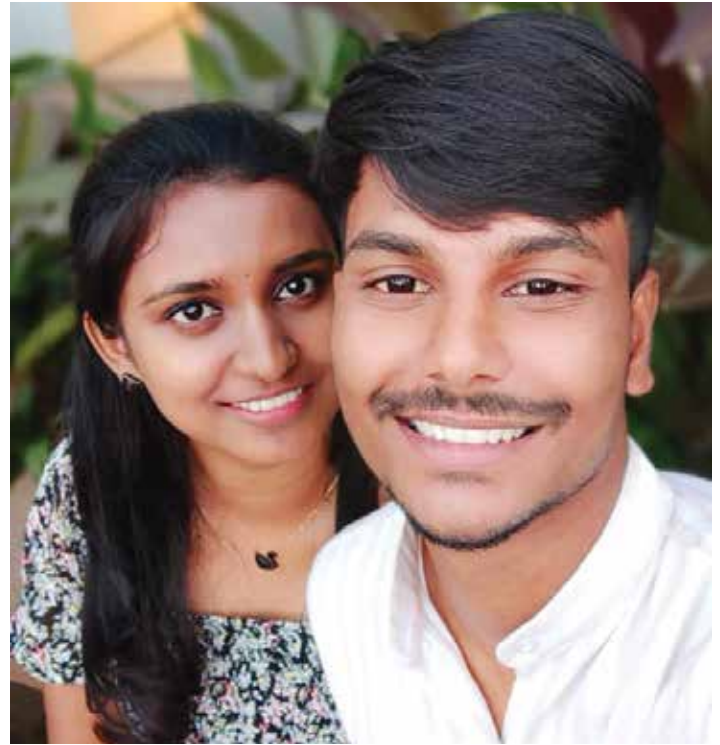
trips had only visited the girls' home in Tamil Nadu (T.N.) State. This trip would be my first time meeting the boys. They had already moved to the new (albeit not-quite-finished) building. I was given a few tasks, one of which was putting the library together in what would now be the girls' home. Without being asked the boys rushed to help me. We unpacked a trunk-load of books and put a library together. Ramesh was in the group of boys I had organized into a bucket brigade, of

Sponsors give more continued

sorts. I organized the boys to be shelving books by topic, just like a real library. We'd call out, 'Children's book!' or 'Science!' and the book would land in the hands of the boy shelving that section. We had great fun and great success.

"I bonded so much with Ramesh that I wanted to sponsor him in addition to Ishwarya [read that story in our January 2024 issue]; however, he already had a sponsor. Instead, we enjoyed one another's company while I was there, and I left India bonded to him in my heart. Although I am not Ramesh's official sponsor, I recognized his high intelligence and decided to finance his further education. I take pride in announcing that he graduated in the top of his class with a degree in Computer Engineering. He has placed in a good company and now is preparing his new life with a former classmate (and now fiancée), Pryanka. I so enjoy getting progress reports and video calls from them."

When HOINA children grow up or move out of our homes to rejoin family as their situation allows or when we lose a sponsor, we sometimes need to reassign a child to a new sponsor or a sponsor to a new child. After Ishwarya graduated, Roz's next sponsee was Sandhya. She had been Darlene Large's sister Letti Obradovich's HOINA child. When Dr. Obradovich passed away unexpectedly, an interesting incident plopped Sandhya in Roz's lap, quite literally. To hear Roz tell it: "I had made a trip to India to help Darlene move the girls from T.N. north to A.P. I saw Sandhya wandering her new campus, alone, and obviously very shy. I asked her if she would like to read a book



A recent photo of Ramesh and his fiancée Pryanka

from the new library we had just put together. At random I picked a book entitled, *The Adventures of Mrs. Pussycat*. As we turned the pages of the book, we discovered—to our astonishment and delight—that it was a story about an orphan girl getting adopted. I am still amazed that out of the hundreds of books in that library, I was guided to read that book to her.

"Sandhya was practicing her English, as she also learned her new state language, Telegu. As we enjoyed getting to know one another, we spent time together every day, for a week, taking turns reading to one another. Through



A young Sandhya with her art project at the new girls' home.



Roz and her protégé Sandhya.

the years, I kept in touch with her. As Sandhya's studies expanded she went on to finish a college degree in Business. Now that she is an adult, we enjoy the opportunity to have video chats to keep in touch."



Remembrances

Thank you to the many donors who chose to give memorial gifts through late December. 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

Donald & Grace Curry	Susan Nuckols
Jay Evans	Sarojini & TY Parthasarathy
Maggie Goff	Mary Ann Pasko
Bob Hart (2)	Sampath Ranji (2)
Akhoury & Giresh Jankinath (2)	Dawn Raphcinski
Margaret Johnson	Betty J. Schafer
Bruce Large (2)	The Children of John & Anne Tennis
Dirk Large	John Tennis (2)
Lydia Link (2)	Angie & Caesar Turchi (3)
Pat & Connie Marinetti (2)	Mary Scala Vinci
Jessica Nolfi	

In Honor of

Vijay K. Bhasin	Darlene D. Large (7)
Liz & Ken Currey	Alberta Mancini
Beth Graves' birthday	Pradeep
Doug & Glory Janes	Vinisha
Peter & Gloria Joseph	

Tax Statements Questions?

By now, you should have your annual giving statement from our HOINA Treasurer, Randy Bentele. If you have any questions, please feel free to email him at info@hoina.org. Your gifts in 2023 have helped hundreds of children. Thank you for your generosity!

Fundraiser Results

Many thanks to those who either ate at Panda Express for our first national online fundraiser on December 15, 2023, or donated "toward" it. We raised \$1619 in one night! WAY TO GO!



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:
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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.

Greetings!

You have heard me convey my appreciation for our HOINA graduates. Likewise, they are grateful to HOINA for the opportunities afforded them—like the ability to grow and study in a safe environment where all



From the President
Todd Becker

of their needs are met. When I read Roz Vinci's article this month, I recognized Ramesh's photo. After his college graduation, he lived at HOINA for a couple of months so he could use HOINA's office, providing him internet to work his new job remotely. Ramesh was so grateful that he donated his first paycheck to us to help his HOINA brothers and sisters. This type of character, love, and thankfulness is what your monthly gifts enable.

As you are reading this, I am halfway into my fifth overseas trip since June 2022. Having now spent 11 months on the ground in India, I am fairly well acclimated to the culture, customs, and travel requirements in order to move independently. Glory Janes, HOINA's Executive Director, was with me in January. While some activities require both of us to be present, many do not. Glory and I can now divide and conquer when we are both in country. We have a solid agenda, which, at the highest level, is always the same; e.g. government activities, bank work, project execution, staff alignment, child care and education, etc. We look forward to being able to share some of our accomplishments in coming issues of this newsletter.

I briefly covered some of the USA treasury and office transition activities last month. We had hoped for a seamless transition. Alas, it was not to be. Last month our printer printed the wrong January newsletter, and we are sorry for any confusion it caused. Of course, they quickly printed the 2024 issue and paid the postage to correct the mistake. As that was the last one sent by Don Cronauer and his wife, I want to take a moment to sincerely thank them for serving faithfully for more years than I can recall by distributing the HOINA newsletters on a monthly basis. We wish them well in their next ventures.

HOINA Sponsor and Contribution Coupon

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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)


(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**
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Lee's Summit, MO 64064



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Will You Be My Valentine?

Another one of our newest admissions, Syam Prasad M. is looking for a sponsor. This twelve-year-old boy is a semi-orphan whose mother cannot provide for all three of her children. Her husband was an agricultural laborer, who lost his income when the rice harvest failed. He could not bear the loss. Since Syam Prasad is the eldest child in the family, she asked one of our HOINA graduates to speak on her behalf to admit her son to our home.

Wouldn't sponsoring this "valentine" warm your heart this winter? Just \$35 per month will provide Syam Prasad with a home with HOINA brothers and sisters, food, medical care, and an education to help him become the engineer he hopes to be one day.

