



NEWS FROM

HOINA

HOMES OF THE INDIAN NATION

1175-B S. Aspen Ave. Broken Arrow, OK 74012 • [www.hoina.org](http://www.hoina.org) • March 2024

## From Small Sprout to Grown Graduate

By *Glory Janes, HOINA Executive Director*

The month of March brings us the beginning of so many things. Historically, March was when armies began to march again after frozen winters, and farmers tilled their soil, readying it for planting. While military actions and farming have dramatically changed over time, the excitement that March brings with the season of Spring hasn't changed a bit. As nature begins to bloom again, soil is prepared, seeds are sown, and the cycle of life begins anew.

Why am I talking about Spring and seeds? As I sat down thinking of topics to write to you about my recent trip, numerous events, experiences, and things that I could write about popped into my head. The one that stays at the forefront of my mind are my encounters with the graduates ready to go into the world. Those grads are the seeds that you have helped sow at HOINA. Some are now fully grown and ready. I could write about broken bones, sick kids, accomplished kids and struggling kids, excelling kids, and challenging kids, but that's just part of raising children. Nothing compares to the joy of seeing a child graduate, ready to walk out into the world as a successful young adult. The joy is too strong and fulfilling to not share with you.

This January when at HOINA, on a Sunday afternoon, I did my routine walk to the boys' home and noticed all the boys huddled in a group listening to one older kid. As I got closer, I realized that he wasn't one of the regular faces, yet he did look very familiar. Soon enough he gave me a big smile and called out "Akka!" Before I knew it, the words flew from my mouth, "Tirumal, my goodness! Look at you!"

Tirumal came to HOINA at the young age of six. I vividly remember meeting him on my trip to India in 2009. He had



Above: A grown-up Tirumal with article author Glory Janes. Below: Six-year-old Tirumal poses for his intake picture when he first came to HOINA.



## Small Sprout *continued*

just arrived at HOINA a few months prior. He had lost his parents when he was only five years old and was being raised by his uncle who died a year later. Tirumal was a quiet and shy little guy.

Now here he is, a strong, handsome, and well-educated young man with a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering. He has secured an internship in Hyderabad at one of the leading research laboratories in the state, where he has already been offered a job at the same company. Fifteen years after we marked the beginning of Tirumal Rao's journey at HOINA, we see the results of the seeds sown in this child's life. Seeds of love, joy, and hope for a future. Tirumal said to me, "When I came to HOINA, I am just nothing [sic]. Today,

I am capable and am something. I thank Mom [HOINA founder Darlene Large] and HOINA wholeheartedly, for picking me up from a very bad situation and changing my life." Tirumal is so thankful to each of you and wants you to know that he will always be grateful for the seeds sown in him, and for the nurture and guidance given to him. He plans to pass this forward to another child in the future.

This story is about just one of the HOINA children, one among the many seeds who has grown and is fruitful. I plan to write a few more stories of this year's outgoing graduates in the coming months to share the joy with you.

Happy Spring! Let's sow more—some in the ground and some in the hearts.



## Three Sous-chefs

Growing in their duties and service, G. Divya, N. Varshitha, and M. Joshitha (left to right) clean herbs grown at HOINA for a meal prepared in the kitchen of our girls' home. Our children have chores that teach them responsibility, how to tend our earth, and to serve others well.



## 89 Years Young

On March 31st, Easter Sunday, we will gratefully celebrate another birthday with HOINA Founder (and retired president), Darlene Large. She gave us a health scare last year; however, she rebounded so well that she was released from skilled nursing and moved to the assisted living facility in her retirement community. Thank you for your prayers on her behalf.



Birthday greetings may be sent to her at:

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



## Greetings!

Every time I come to India I think to myself “How is this my life?” Leading HOINA is more fulfilling than everything else I have done in my career. The ability to directly impact another person’s life in such a deep and meaningful way is a great gift—and a tremendous responsibility. I envisioned working with the children when I said “Yes” to serving the organization as its President. What I did not anticipate was the influence I now have with adults and communities around me.

Adults encompass broad and diverse groups such as HOINA’s staff, who come from villages adjacent to our campus. Those villages host festivals and events to which I find myself now being invited. Sponsors travel from near and far to host a birthday or anniversary event on campus with the children. HOINA’s vendors and suppliers range from smaller, local businesses to large manufacturers meeting our needs. Religious beliefs and ceremonies are inseparable from society and culture with Hindu, Muslim, and Christian being the three largest groups. All of these are just some of the interactions I have in India.

Allow me to take a moment to share what this looks like on a daily basis. Our children greet me every time they see me. They want me to see and acknowledge their presence by name. “Do you really see me?” is what they are asking. With 150 children I am still working on individual names. One way I do this is by frequently walking through evening study hour. I stop and engage with them one-on-one. I love the quality time with each of them and their eyes tell me they do, too.

I am honored to be invited into some of the staff homes where the extended family is often present. After a recent dinner I was asked to pray for a little girl. Her mother told me, “I just want to hear her say ‘Mama’ once.”

At a local village festival I was honored to greet both State and National level volleyball players as they competed for the State team title. The event was televised and attended by hundreds.



HOINA President Todd Becker poses for a quick selfie with HOINA's driver, Ramana, in a happier moment before Ramana lost his father.



Finally, most religions celebrate major events in life from birth through death. Recently, one of my drivers lost his father. When I went to pay my respects to his family, he looked me in the eye and said, “Sir, my father.”

I replied, “Yes, I understand,” as I lost my father 2 years ago as well. We gave each other a long hug. No more words were required.

There is no better way to live than to be able to impact the lives around us. In my new life, that is now literally hundreds of lives. Knowing this humbles me as I know this truth: “Everyone to whom much is given, of him much will be required; and from him to whom they entrusted much, they will demand the more.” *Luke 12:48 ESV*

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.

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Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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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): \_\_\_\_\_

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OR please consider donating online at [www.hoina.org](http://www.hoina.org)

All donations are tax deductible.

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



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## Calling All Soccer Lovers

In 2007, our sponsor child's parents had an inter-caste love marriage. P. Meenakshi was their second child. Her father had a good job until he became despondent when his first-born child, a son, died of Dengue Fever when he was only five. The family ran into more heartache when P. Meenakshi's mother died in a tragic accident. At that point her dad was unable to care for her. When her auntie had custody of Meena, she came to know about HOINA and asked us to admit her niece.

P. Meenakshi has been with us for a year and has not yet been assigned a sponsor. She turns 14 this summer. She loves soccer and the color blue. Would you consider supporting her for \$35/month?

