



A Very Special Alumni Visit

By Todd Becker, HOINA President

HOINA “brothers” T. Sundar Rao “Sundar” and M. Vijay Sekhar “Manchodu” visited campus on February 10 and 11. Many of you will recall Sundar as the HOINA graduate working in the USA for Telegu News Station TV5. He is also a member of the HOINA USA Board of Trustees. Due to COVID-19, this visit was his first time home to India in many years. On the other hand, Manchodu is a professional engineer living in Hyderabad with international experience. I first met him when he visited me in March 2023. Manchodu was of great help to me last year and continues to be an asset to HOINA as I consult him on countless issues.

When graduates come to visit, I always ask them to share their life story with the current children. *Who are you? Where did you come from? When did you enter HOINA? What do you remember about the HOINA you grew up in? When you graduated from 10th Standard and left HOINA, what did you do? How did you survive? Did you marry? Do you have children / grand-children? Do you have a bachelor’s or master’s degree? Who is your employer? What do you do every day when you go to work? ...* and of course, anything else they desire to share. Manchodu had an elaborate PowerPoint presentation last year with many pictures from HOINA when he was a child. This visit gave Sundar his opportunity to share his life joys, struggles, and adventures.

Both Sundar and Manchodu share a deep Christian religious conviction and faith. It shapes their worldview and defines their approach to life. Obviously, Sundar shared his personal religious beliefs. He spoke of HOINA’s founder, Darlene D. Large, whom he always calls “Mom,” because he is a full orphan and she and “Papa” Bruce Large (d.) are



Sundar interviewed boys, girls, staff, and graduates for his feature story for TV5.

the only parents he has known. Sundar repeatedly emphasized to the current children the sacrifices that Mom and the sponsors made, and continue to make, to provide such an outstanding opportunity to them. Unlike in Sundar’s day, HOINA now provides education beyond the 10th standard. He then spoke about his career as a broadcast journalist / feature reporter and shared pictures of famous Telegu-speaking business people, politicians, and movie

Alumni Visit continued

stars from the States of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. Not unlike America, the Tollywood stars were the biggest hit of the evening!

Sundar spent Sunday interviewing children, staff, and management to create another Telegu documentary to spread the good news of HOINA. I found it fascinating to watch Sundar in his element using the natural gifts God has given him. Constantly evaluating the frame and angle for subject, background, lighting, sound, and a myriad of dimensions I know nothing about. Many nervous smiles and anxious glances filled his subjects' faces as he moved from person to person gathering raw footage. Our children were not just hamming it up for the camera as sometimes happens when a camera comes out. They knew Sundar, their elder HOINA brother, was doing something important that they were part of. I recently saw a preliminary version and am excited for the final product. I will include a link to the final video in a future newsletter for your personal enjoyment and sharing.



(Left to Right): HOINA Indian board member N.S.R. Krishna, HOINA President Todd Becker, HOINA U.S. board member T. Sundar Rao, and HOINA grad M. Vijay Sekhar pause for a quick photo together.

At the end of the day, Manchodu and Sundar surprised me by arranging an evening of celebration and a grand meal. We enjoyed much singing and dancing on the outdoor stage, a feast of chicken biryani, and finally speeches to celebrate the time together. Later that night, we took Sundar and Manchodu to catch a sleeper bus back to Hyderabad for work on Monday morning. The HOINA family was grateful for a weekend well spent.



T. Sundar Rao accompanies the group on the drums while they sing in chapel.

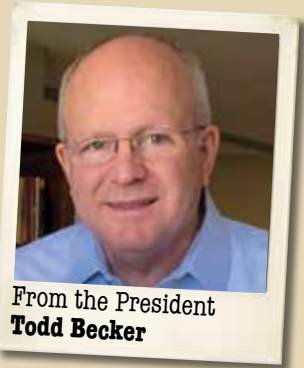


The night that Sundar and Manchodu hosted a feast for HOINA staff and kids required bringing out the big pots for the meal. Actually, the pots used that night aren't that much bigger than the ones they use on a regular day of the week! We go through a LOT of rice at HOINA.

Greetings!

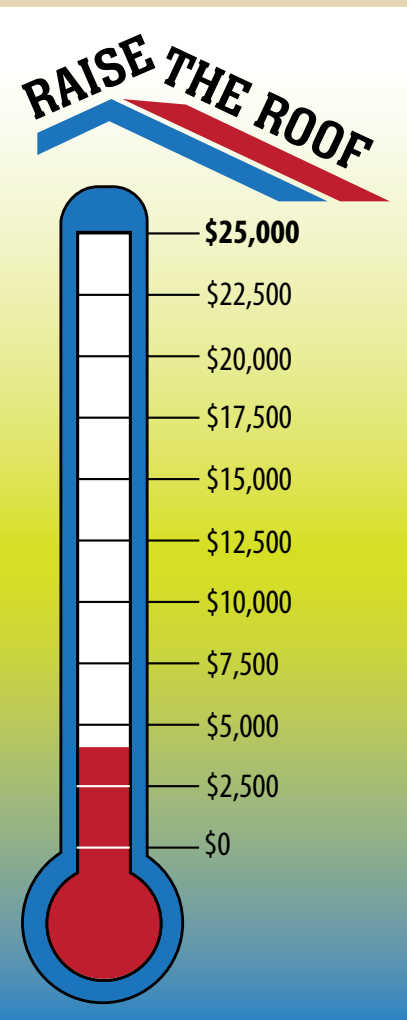
As the HOINA girls' home was the first building constructed on our Vizag property in 2002, its roof has taken a beating from the sun and storms for 20+ years. The weather where HOINA is located can be extreme. Summers can reach 125 degrees in the shade. Rain can be soft and gentle, but more typically comes in the form of a cyclone which drops inches of rain per day for 3-5 days, dries out for a few days and then comes again. This cycle continues for 2-3 months. Historically, the management team has simply patched the roof to save money; however, the roof began leaking more significantly last year and is now affecting the ceiling fans, light fixtures, etc.

A construction consultant has advised us that it is time to rebuild the roof. HOINA's strong gardeners took on the job of breaking and removing the layers of concrete from the 12,000 square foot surface. That labor-intensive work is now complete, and it is time for the professionals to seal the cracks, add a layer of sloping concrete for drainage, and then add a durable sealant layer on top of the new concrete slab. This large project will take 60 days to complete before the rainy season begins in June.



Due to the urgency of the need, the Board is dipping into HOINA's reserve funds in the USA to begin this project immediately. Honestly, we

need \$25,000 in the building fund to cover the cost of the girl's home roof project. Are you willing to help us meet this urgent and timely need? Do you know a company, organization, or individual who might partner with us to help cover the costs? If so, please call the USA HOINA office at 717-355-9494 or email me at tbecker@hoina.org.



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.

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April 2024 

- Use my gift of \$ _____ to help repair the girls' home roof.
- 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.

OR please consider donating online at www.hoina.org

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Future Army Officer Needs Sponsor

G. Narendra was the first child of his parents. After some marital difficulties, they separated, leaving him to be raised by his grandparents. At the time of admission, Narendra's grandmother had gone blind and could not care well for him. One of our HOINA graduates, Mr. Durga Prasad met them and referred them to HOINA.

Narendra is already in ninth grade, so he won't be with us for too many years, but it sure would be nice to know that he was cared for by his sponsors. Do you have a desire for a pen pal? Would you connect with Narendra to show interest in him? If so, use the coupon above to request his sponsorship when you send your first monthly gift of \$35 to our office in Lee's Summit, MO.

