



NEWS FROM

HOINA

HOMES OF THE INDIAN NATION

1175-B S. Aspen Ave. Broken Arrow, OK 74012 • www.hoina.org • September 2024

The Busyness of Back-to-School

By Glory Janes, HOINA Executive Director

Every year, schools in the USA give lists of items needed for the classroom to students, and the back-to-school shopping begins! In a mad rush, we flood the stores to find just the right backpacks, lunch boxes, and notebooks for our students, as well as the obligatory “donations” to our students’ classrooms. Since we, in the USA, are starting our school year, I thought I would show you the mayhem it takes to get our HOINA students ready for another year of classes.

Taking an inventory of all those school needs is a maddening event, as our requirements are multiplied by 167 students! That fact requires that the preparations start months ahead. Before we even think of going shopping, we clean out the closets to determine who has outgrown what and how many uniforms can be handed down to younger children.

As I watched from above, I noticed the older kids going in and out of the rooms, bringing baskets of clothes while others brought shoes, all to be put into massive piles. Seeing the mess, I thought, *how is this even going to happen?* When I came back a few



Our village tailor measures Joshitha for her custom-made school uniform as HOINA’s housemother Vimala records the details.

hours later to check the progress, I was amazed to see perfect order from the chaos—all the clothes were neatly folded and grouped together while the shoes sat in neat rows (see photos on page 2). Of course, without the firm

direction from the houseparents, this herculean task may not have happened. We are grateful for their hard work, and I am thankful that I, personally, have only three students to shop for!

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Back-to-School

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Once the sorting is finished and we know what clothing needs we have, we buy fabric in bulk and have tailors come to the campus, who then take measurements to custom-tailor the students' school uniforms. Surprisingly, tailor-made clothing is cheaper than buying ready-made outfits at the store.

Of course we need more than uniforms for a successful school year—textbooks, notebooks, pencils, pens, erasers, backpacks, water bottles, lunch boxes, ribbons for braids, etc. All of these are bought in bulk to secure the best prices, and extras are purchased, too, for those items that “go missing” later in the semester. (!) The average cost of backpacks for approximately 150 students is \$500. Uniforms cost just \$150, and other school supplies listed above (including math items like compasses and calculators) come to about \$800. If you feel led to sponsor one of these items, please complete and return the coupon on the back page.

When you put your children and grandchildren onto their school buses and when you again sit for evening homework



sessions, remember the HOINA children across the world who are able to go to school without having to worry about their supplies, because you are taking care of it. Thank you for your generous support, love, and prayers.

We at HOINA wish your children a wonderful academic year ahead.

Time for a Tidy Trim

In our June issue, we showed you some photos of fancy hair braids the girls like to produce for one another. Our boys care about looking good, too. Every four weeks, our regular barber comes to campus to trim up the boys' hair. We're glad not to have to transport and corral so many kids at the town shop. The teenage boys come with their own ideas of how they want their hair: Mohawk, messy, long hair, undercut, Bieber style, and the latest one—the Broccoli haircut! You name it, they know it. Most of them get a simple buzz cut or parted style since that's the mandate at school, but the teenagers get a little leeway in how theirs is cut. In the end, everyone comes away looking neatly groomed and ready for school.



From the President
Todd Becker

Greetings!

I write this as I am waiting in my room in Delhi to begin the journey home later this evening. The last 6 weeks in India have gone by very quickly as my work took me outside the campus for 50% of the time. The trip was very productive for me and for HOINA. Thank you for your prayers. I love the picture below as it shows the sun and heat which started my trip contrasted with the clouds and rain which are ending my trip. The boys' home is the building in the photo.



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

Contact us at:
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This newsletter is published to inform our readers of the work HOINA does among the handicapped and abandoned in India.

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Send donations and address changes to:

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Email financial questions to: info@hoina.org

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.

HOINA Sponsor and Contribution Coupon

Name: _____

Address: _____

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- Please add my gift of \$_____ to the **Education Fund** to help provide school supplies and tuition for the HOINA children.
- 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.

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



Please consider donating online at www.hoina.org

All donations are tax deductible.

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HOINA
PO Box 7167
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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U.S. Postage
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Back on the Bus

HOINA buses loaded and heading out for another full day of school. In India, this trip is made twice a day, 6 days each week. Bumpity-bump-bump they go down the rural village roads!

