



NEWS FROM

HOINA

HOMES OF THE INDIAN NATION

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

First Sundays

By Todd Becker, HOINA President and Managing Trustee

The first Sunday of each month is a special time at HOINA. On these particular afternoons families are invited to visit their children. Some travel a short distance, while others travel on the night sleeper train, or a sequence of government buses to arrive at campus just to spend the afternoon with a child. A parent, grandparent, aunt, or

uncle makes the journey. Few can afford the cost of a full day off from work plus travel expenses to visit every month. Sadly, HOINA also has children who have no living relatives. For them, first Sunday tends to be a quiet playful day with their peers.

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Meghana (L) and her twin brother Mohan flank their mother, B. Devi.



G. Devi fixes her daughter Kasulamma's hair.

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Amrutha gets a visit and some TLC from her grandmother, Parvathi.



Kusuma has a big smile as her mother Krishna Kumari braids her hair.

When a family arrives, they check-in with HOINA security. The appropriate houseparent, boys' – girls' or both, is then contacted to send the child to the proper location. Boys gather at Gate 1 while girls gather at Gate 2 near their respective homes. Some choose to form small groups while others wander a little further preferring special 1-on-1 time. Whichever way they connect, both family and children enjoy being together. Frequently, a meal or snack is enjoyed, hair is oiled and braided, a new shirt or churidar is delivered, and conversation is engaged in as they catch up on each other's lives.

I love meeting the families and engaging in light conversation. Understanding someone's background is different for me when I speak face-to-face to an adult and child. Reading a child profile and case history is just not the same. At HOINA, we feel it is important for our children to stay as connected as possible to their blood relatives even as they live at HOINA full-time. I also like to think that meeting me and some of the staff conveys a confidence that HOINA has their child's best interest at



Lydia, Kasulamma, and Monica take some time for henna hand decorations on a quiet day without school.

heart. We care for each child as though they are our own. Finally, as dinner time approaches, the family members clean their area, say goodbye to their child, and sign-out with the security team before walking to the main road to catch a bus or auto-rickshaw. Smiles abound at dinner on First Sunday!

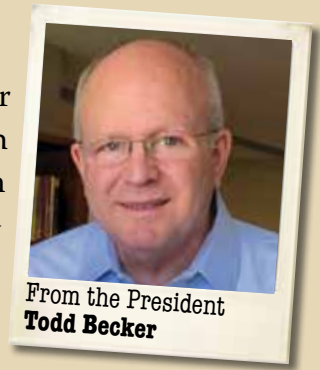
Greetings!

As another year is coming to a close and we approach Christmas, which is my favorite time of year, I think back on my 2.5 years as President and Managing Trustee of HOINA. God used the first six months to teach me about the work Mom had devoted her life to. I met the current and past Trustees who came alongside Mom to guide the work, loving and grateful graduates, and

was introduced to important people God knew I would need in the future. All of these continue to provide counsel and assistance to me as I continue the work. I also began learning about the honor and shame worldview as I interacted with it on a daily basis. "Honor and Shame" was the theme of 2022 for me.

2023's theme was "Be still and know that I am God." At the end

of a year of much turmoil in the leadership and transition of HOINA



in India, God allowed the Indian Trust Deed to be officially amended and filed. The trust deed is the foundational document for HOINA in India. I worked for 18 months to accomplish this task and was about to think it would never be achieved ... but for God.

2024's theme is "The Beatitudes." In another difficult year with staff in India, God continues to teach and humble me. At times, I question what I am doing volunteering on the other side of the earth for six months every year. Then God shows me the impact HOINA makes in the transformed lives of the children in our care. In addition, HOINA offers economic significance in the villages where our employees live. I believe it is an honor to be God's hands and feet for this work ... even in the most difficult of times.

May God's peace and joy be with you and your family for all you do to make HOINA a reality in the lives of thousands for over 46 years.

P.S. Please pray for my wife as she recovers from shoulder surgery this month.

A big thank you to Tabita Menon and her friends at SEED Ministries, India, for donating their resources and installing this bore well.



Tabita Menon (HOINA India Board Member) cuts the ribbon on the new bore well.



A drink of fresh water!

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

Contact us at:
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Website: www.hoina.org

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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PO Box 7167
Lee's Summit, MO 64064 U.S.A.
Email financial questions to: info@hoina.org

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December 2024 

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I want to **Sponsor** a HOINA boy / girl (circle one). Here is my **first** monthly gift of \$35.

This gift of \$ _____ is in **honor / memory** of (please print the name and address of person) (circle one)

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Merry Christmas!

So many of you are kind enough to send a Christmas greeting to HOINA's founder, Darlene Large. We thank you for that! While she resides in Assisted Living, she loves getting your mail and news from your homes.

Please be sure to sign your first AND last names when you write to her. She knows many people with the same first name (as we all do) and wants to remember you fondly. Her address is below.

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

Year-End Giving

Our gratitude knows no bounds as we reflect on the generosity of so many of you, our sponsors and supporters. Please help us serve you better by sending your year-end donations before December 31. We want to be sure to record your donations in the current tax year so our records match yours.

