



# 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 2025

## A Festive Celebration of Patriotism: Guests, Gifts, and Goodies!

*By Todd Becker, HOINA President*

I am writing this from India almost halfway through my trip. As I shared last month that my daughter Elsie was coming with me, she and I arrived to a great welcome at the airport in Visakhapatnam by HOINA's Executive Director Glory Janes, with NiHarka and Meghana, who are two of the older HOINA girls. For me, it was a great welcome from those I care for and know well. Elsie found the experience beautiful and honoring. [Look forward to her story, coming in a future issue.]

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Some of our older girls all dressed up for the feast and ceremonies. Front Row: Meghana, Mahima, Mounika, Teja Sri, Bhavani, Niharika, and Sravanthi  
Back row: NSR Krishna (HOINA trustee), Sushmitha, Ashwini, Harika, Lisha, Todd Uncle (HOINA U.S. President), Joel Benjamin (HOINA trustee), Pavithra, Divya, Tabita Menon (HOINA trustee), and Glory Janes (U.S. Executive Director).

## Festive Celebration continued

One of the opportunities Elsie had was to participate in a combined Republic Day and Christmas gift giving celebration. India's HOINA Trustees and other special guests joined us for the evening at the outdoor stage by the girls' home. Everyone put on their best clothes and came excited for the festivities. All of India's people, no matter their religion or social status, celebrate Republic Day, to honor when the Indian constitution was adopted and India became a fully autonomous republic with a parliament and a president in 1950. Republic Day is filled with patriotic events such as flag raising, marching, singing the national anthem, and speeches telling the stories of the work of the founders and how India came to exist. Jumping in with both feet, Elsie had the opportunity to quiz the HOINA girls on their Indian Constitution facts to prepare them for their civics exam. Everyone was quite proud when they came home with outstanding marks!

As always, our annual Christmas-in-January party added to the excitement of the day. Everyone enjoyed the festivities: singing, dancing, storytelling, gift giving, and a fine meal of chicken biryani filled the rest of the evening. Teams of boys and teams of girls sang and performed self-choreographed dances. The Indian Bollywood and Tollywood movies are a great source for dance moves. The boys and girls wore the Christmas outfits they received in December while the older girls wore elegant saris.

Each child always receives a wrapped shoe box, filled with small things like chocolates, pencils, notebooks, bangles for the girls and cars for the boys, etc. Each child also has the opportunity to request one larger item. Older children request special clothing, a watch, or a trolley (rolling suitcase) for traveling. The big gift for the younger, and some older, girls this year was the giant teddy bear. Who doesn't want something soft and fluffy to cuddle and sleep with?

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Meghana greets Todd Becker with a traditional lei of flowers at the airport.



Elsie is engulfed in a sea of girls, who were waiting to welcome her into their home.



The HOINA boys eagerly await the arrival of Todd Uncle and Elsie Akka!

## Festive Celebration continued

As the evening progressed, everyone was ready for a favorite meal, fellowship, and pictures. While the staff were tired at the end of the night, the children were happy; and everyone was full of joy from a day of fun and another year of blessings. We thank you for your support, which makes those blessings possible.



Some of the girls who got BIG bears for the Christmas in January celebration are (clockwise from lower left): Rishitha, Anuradha, Prassana Jyothi, Usha Rani, Neelima, Divya, Darshini, Kasulamma, Sravani, Yasashwini



Four of our big boys all dressed up for the celebration: Swami, Nageswara Rao, Narendra, and Yeswanth

## Greetings!

Warm days and cool nights are some of my favorite.

As the middle of February is upon me, Visakhapatnam's days are in the low 90's and nights are in the low 70's. It would be almost perfect if the humidity would simply drop below 80%+ during the day. Living in the South of India and being fewer than ten miles from the Bay of Bengal makes the hope for a drop in humidity merely a dream.

I am thankful to have less travel on this trip. Some of my previous trips had me on the road 50%+ of my time in-country. The extra time on campus with staff, children, and sponsors is what I love to do. My relationships strengthen and my knowledge of suppliers, processes, and outcomes grows. Refinement of HOINA operations is only possible because of the discussions and observations that Glory and I make while present there.

Lastly, the school year is coming to an end for our children. Please remember them in prayer as final exams begin in early March and continue through late-April. In their rank-based system, final exam scores literally open and close doors.



From the President  
**Todd Becker**

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.

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**Send donations and address changes to:**

HOINA

PO Box 7167

Lee's Summit, MO 64064 U.S.A.

Email financial questions to: [info@hoina.org](mailto: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.

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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.
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**Lee's Summit, MO 64064**



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## Nine Decades and Counting!

### Happy 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday to HOINA's Founder, Darlene Large!

God told her that He had a work for her when she was just ten years old. Thirty years later, she began the HOINA work, whereby she was able to make lives better for so many. Fifty years after that, we're grateful to celebrate her long life. If you'd like to participate in our card shower, please send a birthday greeting at the address below:

Darlene Large  
500 NW Murray Rd, Apt 3  
Lee's Summit, MO 64081

Please remember to put your first AND last name on your note. She has accumulated many, many friends in nine decades!