



## Saying Goodbye to the Mountains

By Todd Becker, HOINA President

More than a decade ago, Darlene “Mom” Large spent two years looking for 50 acres of additional land to purchase. The vision for the land use incorporated both agriculture and animal husbandry, including growing crops, and raising animals for milk, eggs, etc. The plan was to bring a portion each day to campus while selling any excess in the local markets. The revenue from market sales was to offset the cost of operating the campus. After endless searches for a suitable parcel of land, one was found in an area of Andhra Pradesh named Madugula. The land is a group of odd-shaped parcels which, when joined together, form the total acreage. The purchase was completed in October 2013 with “local” rupee funds. No foreign funds were involved in the transaction.

A water reservoir feeds a stream, which passes through the land. The land itself is rich and fertile. As proof, the greater area is filled with palm, banana, and coconut plantations. HOINA surveyed the land, built a storage building, and hired one of the local village elders to be a watchman



HOINA President Todd Becker (l) and campus manager Mr. Bujji (r) discuss the Madugula land with a village elder, HOINA's watchman over the land.

over the land. HOINA had an employee who was a farmer and had a great desire to move to Madugula. He and his family would clear the land, oversee the required improvements, and hire workers to plant, care for, and harvest the vegetables. They would also purchase cows, sheep, goats, and chickens to round out the farm.

From what I am able to deduce

from Mom's diaries, a tragic situation impacted the farmer's family preventing them from fulfilling the vision. Other factors also contributed to the break in vision. The land is a couple hours from the HOINA campus. It is not on a primary road, so access is via several miles of dirt path traversable only by four-wheel drive vehicles. The sometimes

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# Rescuing The Little Ones

By Glory Janes, HOINA Executive Director

You have heard many times about the day-to-day life of the HOINA children and of their accomplishments. Now, let me share a glimpse into the living circumstance of our children before they come to live with us.

Every year we get many applications requesting admission for children, be it from extended family, village or church elders, the local police, or the local child welfare department. Unless extenuating circumstances demand immediate admission, we wait until the summer break to start this process, so that, the kids can start with us at the beginning of each academic year. Our managing staff visit the village of residence for each child, where they conduct a thorough inquiry of people who know the family and meet the guardians of the child to understand the need.

While most applications come in for children whose parents are deceased or divorced, some are also from parents or a single parent, who live(s) in extreme poverty or struggles with a prolonged illness. Needless to say, some of these visits leave our staff with heavy hearts after witnessing the families' living conditions.

Little Rupa, pictured at right, is a child of a single mother, whose husband abandoned her because she gave birth to a girl. The mom cleans dishes in a few people's homes and makes a meager living. Thankfully, she has shelter since her sister lets her live with them. While this is a sad situation in itself, it still is better than some others that we see like in the photos below. The mud and thatch shack you see is their home. The dirt floor, is not only their floor but, their bed as well. That empty cement bag? Their door mat.

Two other little girls both live in the tribal reservation, a couple of hours away from the HOINA campus by car. They attend the one-room elementary school in the mountains that has grades 1-6, with one teacher for all the grades. This teacher heard about HOINA and sent in applications for the girls. Both orphans are being raised by their aged grandmothers. This lifestyle is the reality of so many of our children. Or I can say, WAS a reality, but not anymore. Once they come to HOINA, they have everything they need, and then some.

I hope that this peek into the living conditions of the children will give you an insight into how powerful your partnership with HOINA is. It isn't just about feeding that one kid you sponsor or that one who is now a successful adult. It is not just about the college tuition or Christmas gift you contribute. You are partnering for much more. Once the child comes to HOINA, a life-changing event occurs for an entire generation. Who knows, it may lead to changing the entire landscape of such poverty-stricken villages. After all, it only takes one to start the change.



The home of one of the girls; notice the cement bag doormat on the dirt floor.



Seven-year-old Rupa sitting on the steps of her aunt's house.



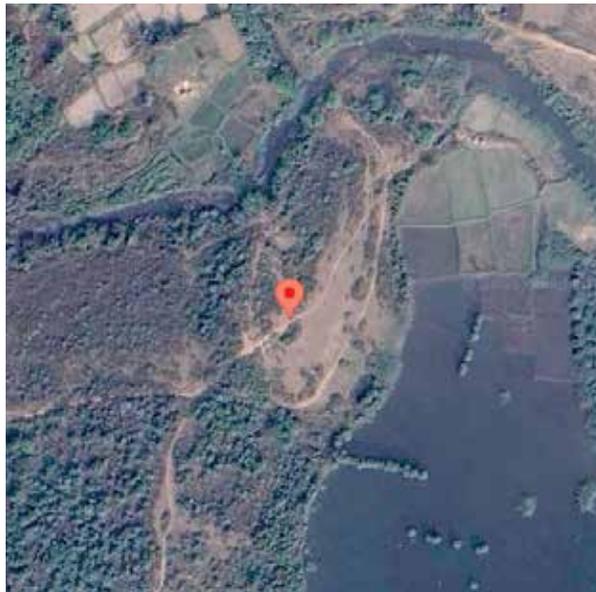
# Saying Goodbye continued from page one

valuable stream becomes a river during the rainy season, requiring a bridge to negotiate. Another bridge is required as the land is in a valley with roughly a 30-foot descent in the last 50 feet. Lastly, without a farmer, it is difficult to farm. HOINA could have hired someone but did not. Mom's notes do not indicate why.

The HOINA India Trustees are now in the process of selling the land. They wanted to sell the land in 2022 when I first took over the organization, and I stopped the sale at that time to bring more clarity to the discussion. We are now at a point where the funds have a clearly defined use, and I am convinced selling the land is the correct step to take. We began discussing our intent earlier this year with government and local tribal leaders in the area. There

are multiple parties who are interested in the property with different desires for its use. Negotiations are underway with each group. When the deal is finished, I will provide a brief update in the "From the President" section of this newsletter.

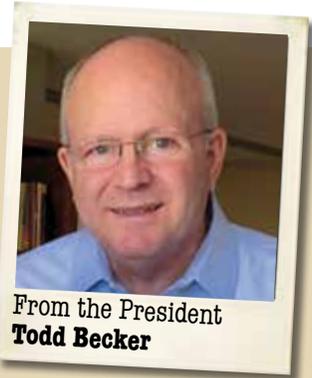
Until then, we appreciate your prayers for a successful negotiation and smooth transition of the property into its new owner's hands.



The Google satellite image above (Google, n.d.) shows the terrain and fertile soil.



The stream flowing through HOINA's land.



From the President  
**Todd Becker**

## Greetings!

By the time you read this, I will have just returned home from spending July in India. As the school year is just beginning there, most of my work relates to academics. My plans include meetings with the cement factory leadership, working with HOINA's Indian accountant, and attending to some annual duties on campus

Beyond the direct duties of running the organization, I enjoy spending time with the HOINA trustees, campus staff, children, and a few of the graduates as our paths cross. Please pray for the campus staff that they will remain diligent in their duties. Pray for the trustees in India and America as they continue their work guiding and owning specific initiatives. Lastly, pray for the strategic and tactical work that Glory and I do as we have dual roles of leadership and execution on behalf of the organization.

I pray that each of you will be blessed for being faithful stewards to HOINA for so many years. "Thank you" is too simple an expression for what I feel.

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

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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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PO Box 7167  
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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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August 2025

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- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for my **ongoing Child Sponsorship**
- Here's my gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to help fund the **general expenses** of HOINA as we care for the children.
- This gift is in **honor** \_\_\_\_ or **memory** \_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_

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

All donations are tax deductible.



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HOINA rescues orphaned girls and boys from difficult conditions. In this photo a grandmother is raising a little girl in a more modern, government-provided house.

See story on page 2.