



# NEWS FROM HOINA HOMES OF THE INDIAN NATION

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## Celebrate Our Graduates With Us

*By Glory Janes, HOINA Executive Director*

Applications, transcripts, entrance tests, admissions, choosing majors and minors, and much more! I am sure many of you have had children who have entered a college program or you, yourself, attended higher education at some point. This year sees HOINA accommodating 20-25 students in all their various placements.

Perhaps you remember my mentioning how the education system overseas works. In India, graduation from high school happens after 10th grade (unlike the 12th grade in the U.S.), followed by a two-year intermediate course that basically is the interim college (like our community colleges in the U.S.), in which the student chooses electives based upon the Bachelor's program they eventually want to pursue.

For the academic year 2024-2025, HOINA had 16 students who graduated high school—eight boys and eight girls. These children now are enrolled in their next level of study. Without sounding too statistical and boring, I'll just say that most boys enrolled in M.P.C. (Math, Physics and Chemistry); and a few have taken the polytechnical programs aiming to enter engineering fields. We do have B. Teja who plans on going into the Armed Forces eventually, either into the Army or B.S.F. (Border Security Forces).

Of our girls, three have enrolled in Bi.P.C. (Biology, Physics and Chemistry) with an aim to go into the field of healthcare. Likewise, G. Bhavana wants to be a nurse, and the Armed Forces will help her achieve that goal. Additionally, Bhavani wants to be an air hostess. And last



David Sheppard, and B. Teja, Intermediate 1st year (11th Grade or 10+1)

but not least, I must mention two of our girls, Tejaswini and Kanaka, who chose the M.P.C. path as well, planning to enter the engineering field. Kanaka has always been very math and mechanically oriented. She may be a very quiet girl, but when she does that Math, it's a different game. It didn't surprise us at all when we learned that she topped the class with a score of 96/100 in her math finals. I know you are feeling just as proud of her as we do!

The other batch of students are the ones who finished their two-year Intermediate course and are enrolling in their next academic phase, the Bachelor's degree

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program, or as well call it here: undergraduate college. We have four boys and eight girls who have been busy all summer preparing for and taking entrance exams for their respective colleges. Unlike SAT and ACT scores in the U.S., India has nationwide and statewide entrance tests for each field. Three of the boys have enrolled in an undergraduate program with computers and math as their major or BSc. Computers. One boy is going into a Polytechnic training, majoring in electrical.



Tejaswini, the 10th grade topper of her class.

Most of the college-aged girls, on the other hand, have taken the entrance test for nursing/paramedical courses and are waiting for the enrollment process to start. If they cannot secure a spot in an undergraduate nursing program, they will be going into the paramedical field as technicians in anesthesia, radiology, cardiology, etc. Pramila, being a math lover, enrolled in computer science program and will earn a Bachelor's degree when she finishes.

Thank you for staying with me thus far. Now you get to have the icing on the cake and finish with a sweet spot: HOINA proudly announces that we have five college graduates this year!

P. Anusha finished her GNM, a three-year General Nursing and Midwifery course and works as an assistant nurse at Sagar Durga Hospital in Vizag.

V. Lokesh graduated with a Bachelor's degree in computers. He is currently working for a battery company and is trying to get an internship in the computer field.

B. Kamesh graduated with a Bachelor's in Engineering, a.k.a B.E-Mechanical. He recently was hired by Ralpro Industries as a Procurement Assistant.



Intermediate 1st year, a.k.a. 11th grade girls.



Usha and Pramila – the freshman year for them.



Todd Becker rewarding B. Kamesh, who graduated with an B.E. - Bachelor's in Engineering degree.

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From the President  
**Todd Becker**

## A Fond Farewell

I had just arrived in India in early July when I received the tragic news that HOINA's dear big sister, Harika, had unexpectedly passed away in her home fishing village outside Visakhapatnam. She is survived by her mother and brother. Harika was found by neighbors

at home alone one night. The cause of death is unknown as an autopsy was not performed. When HOINA's management team visited the next day, her body had already been moved to the family's home village a few hours away. Her life, with so much potential, was taken early by God's will.

Harika was 18 years old and truly unforgettable. Her journey to become a police officer was just beginning as her first year of college was about to start. Harika was known for being outgoing, loud, positive, cheery, strong (both physically and emotionally), sometimes a little too much "in your face," everyone's friend, a shepherd to the lost, and a lover of dogs. Her beautiful heart always helped the new children fit in at HOINA. Lastly, Harika had a genuine passion for taking care of her smallest HOINA "sisters" without being asked.

I look forward to seeing you in heaven, Harika!



Harika loved to carry my backpack on campus. She picked up my backpack on this occasion, yelling to me, "Friend, take my photo!"

## Grads continued from page two

K. Bhaskar graduated with a B.C.A. (Bachelor's in Computer Applications).

P. Sai Eswar graduated with a B.C.A. as well.

Both of these young men work for Vertex Global Services, as Client Care Associates. This job will allow them to be independent and gain some experience of the corporate sector while they are actively searching for jobs that pertain more closely to their education and skills.

All the boys moved out of HOINA and are paying rent to live in guest hostel type accommodations. The two things they say they miss most are the food at HOINA

and their HOINA brothers and sisters.

Join me in congratulating these graduates and sending them best wishes and prayers for a bright future.

As always, congratulations and thank you to you as well, for partnering in this work and for being a reason for these accomplishments at HOINA.

[Editor's Note: HOINA's newsletter is moving to a quarterly schedule for the future.]

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)

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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)

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**PO Box 7167**  
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## Let the Festivities Begin

*By Todd Becker, HOINA President*

HOINA proudly announces another graduate's wedding! I became well acquainted with Anusha during her internship prior to graduation when Anusha stayed at HOINA as our in-house nurse for the past year. She is tall, happy, and respected by both staff and children. On the evening of the wedding, I loaded up the HOINA bus with the 12 university-aged girls, our Housemother Vimala, and Housefather Shadrach.

The wedding took place in a local village square not far from campus. Using just some cloth, lights, and tons of flowers, the village square was transformed in an amazing way into a magical ballroom. The excitement in the air for Ganesh and Anusha was palpable. After being introduced to more HOINA graduates, as well as school friends of our girls, I also greeted a few former and current employees. The bride and groom expected 700+ people to attend that evening! We enjoyed a festive evening of food, family, and friends.

Join us in wishing Anusha and Ganesh many happy years together.



Ganesh and Anusha shortly after arrival on the wedding platform, surrounded by fireworks and photographers!



One of Anusha's annual HOINA childhood photos.



Ganesh and Anusha, the happy couple.