



NEWS FROM HOINA HOMES OF THE INDIAN NATION

PO Box 87, St. Charles, Missouri 63302 • www.hoina.org • November 2010

“Make a Joyful Noise to the Lord, all the Earth”

~ Psalm 100

By Roz Vinci, HOINA Friend

I scant know where to start this article; I have so many wonderful experiences to tell you. This past summer I was blessed to visit HOINA for the third year in a row. What a pleasure to watch all the growth in the children, the improvement in the staff’s language skills, and the additions and improvements to the campus. Always an active place, it is often, dare I say it, on the noisy side. With over 200 children there are spirited shouts to one another, rambunctious playtime, and lots of laughter.

Life at HOINA is very different from my lifestyle and takes a bit of adjustment for me. Although I live in bustling New York City, my home is rather quiet with few children around. The HOINA environment is full of energy and excitement that comes only from children ... happy, healthy, and well cared-for children.

However, what grabs my ear most is the singing and humming. Amongst all this liveliness comes song. It is so sweet. It might be a staff member working over some office work singing in a low voice, or someone sweeping the courtyards. Or, perhaps, a couple of young men carrying supplies from one home to the



Making a “Joyful Noise” on the van ride.

other who just break out in song to go along their way. I hear the kitchen cooks hum and sing as they cut and prepare food for our meals and, of course, the children pop out with songs at any point.

One specific memory strikes me regarding a van ride. To get to school, the HOINA driver makes two trips with the van. First, the younger girls load in ... I have no idea how many! They just make me feel so loved as they fight over who gets to sit next to me. For lack of sleep, I was anticipating a quiet and comfortable ride, although it be

crowded, in a moving vehicle that would provide a breeze to break the VERY hot weather. Not more than a minute past the HOINA gate, the girls burst out singing. It was amazing. These little girls have such powerful voices. It was absolutely unexpected and wonderful. They sang almost the entire one-hour trip. I really enjoyed how when one would realize that the song was about to end, she would jump in and quickly start the next song and the others would pick it up. On and on they sang. We did have to stop at a gate to let several trains

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pass (a common event on the way) and the heat made the girls drowsy. By the time we got to the school, I had two sleeping on my lap, and others leaning and sleeping every which way.

Since everyone wanted me to visit the schools they attend, I was happy to oblige. I visited both the primary (elementary) school and the “10+1 and 10+2 College” (basically, junior college or junior & senior year high school. There they receive a degree before specializing in a field). One of Darlene Large’s main objectives of HOINA is that every child leaves with an excellent education. Their schools may be humble; however, I am extremely impressed with the level of their education system and achievements. Darlene is heavily vested in making the children as well educated and as well prepared as possible to be productive and successful adults.

After being introduced to the dean at each school, I was honored with a cold, orange soda (a big deal when there is usually nothing cold to be found). We walked the campus as the dean pointed out the highlights and future plans. The classes were small with three walls and no fans. The children sit on the floor as they do in most other places. They love their teachers and love to learn! The children couldn’t wait to show ‘me’ to their friends and teachers. After speaking to one class, generally telling them that I enjoy visiting HOINA and their country and the importance of education, etc., I thanked them and wished them well and left. As I walked away, I heard giggling. *Why are they giggling?* My “daughter,” Iswarya (one girl whom I sponsor) explained that those students didn’t understand English and

didn’t have any idea what I was saying. They were just excited to confirm that I really was a foreign woman from the USA. So many happy little moments like this make the visit special.

On another day with the girls, I had the privilege to take some of them to the city to see a movie. The girls were thrilled to hear we were going. However, those who were excluded, of course had long faces and gave Auntie such pathetic looks. Later, I was happy to hear that those who had stayed home were treated to a new DVD.

As we took the one-hour+ trip to Visakhapatnam, the girls sang a challenge song. A group at the front of the van facing the back challenged the girls at the back of the van facing forward. From what I understood, one group yelled out a word and the other group had to sing a song with that word in it, and if they were slow, they did a loud, distracting countdown of 10 and if they couldn’t do it, then they lost. Such simple fun. They giggled and had



Auntie Roz and Iswarya

a wonderful time.

They reassured Auntie Roz the movie theater was very nice and had AC. I was definitely looking forward to that! We arrived, and it looked okay. We were about 45 minutes early so I said, “Let’s get our tickets.” There were 15 of us, including myself and our driver, Prasad. We had a choice of seat/price. I asked what was the difference. They said “how high up. Up is better.” Ok, let’s get “Up.” The costs were 10, 20, 30 rupees



Celebrating the 30th birthday of HOINA’s Office Manager, Jani Maston, in grand style! Left to right behind Jani: Mr. Anand, General Manager; Darlene Large, HOINA President; and Srinivas Kumar “Bujji,” Manager of HOINA Boys’ Home.

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PO Box 636
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Nov/2010



Please use this \$ _____ toward the Christmas Fund.

I want a Gift Sponsorship of a HOINA boy / girl (*circle one*). Here is my first monthly gift of \$30. (please give name and address of person in whose name you are sponsoring): _____

(please print clearly)

This gift of \$ _____ is in honor of _____
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ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX-DEDUCTIBLE

Joyful Noise

which equals about 20¢, 45¢ and 70¢. Wow, Auntie will treat for the expensive tickets! Let's all have some Fanta orange soda! So 15 of us got movie tickets for \$10 and sodas for \$5. I don't even want to think of what it would cost to take 15 people to the movies in the States.

The girls were staying very close to me. I encouraged them to go in to the theater a few minutes before me. They did. Inside it was quite dark; in fact, it was hard for me to find them. "Auntie, Auntie!" *Ah, yes ... just follow that call.* I wondered why they were sitting way across next to the far wall and not in the center. In unison, "The fan, Auntie, the FAN!"

"Fan?? FAN??? No AC!?"

"No, Auntie." I just said okay and found the seat I asked Ishu to save in between her seat and my other "daughter" Sandhya's seat. Suddenly, I couldn't talk or catch my breath. I thought I would have to run outside. From how I was feeling, I was guessing maybe it was a lot of dust or perhaps mold. I "took" some water. Soon the sweat pouring off my face and burning my eyes distracted me. The girls loved the movie. It was dubbed into Telegu, but Jackie Chan is pretty universal without difficult plots so I was



able to easily follow along. Their cheers and applause erupted spontaneously at the movie's end, no critiques of plot or the movie's predictability, just pure enjoyment. Everyone wore big smiles as we left the theater.

I thought what a unique experience it was for me to share with these girls. It made no difference to the girls what the conditions were. They had a great time. They thanked me endlessly for giving them such a treat. Again, India gave me a perspective that I, as an American, often lose: do not always react to what you see, but rather to what you feel. Feel how beautiful their smiles shine past those tattered seats.



HOINA is a 501(c)3, tax-exempt organization with international headquarters located 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. Layout by Eberly Designs, Mount Joy, PA. Printing by Freedom-Graphics, E-town, PA.

Send address changes to:

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Christmas Fund Appeal

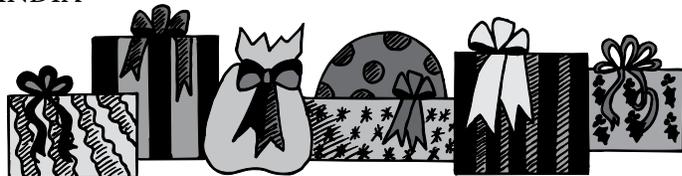
Those of you who sponsor HOINA children would probably love to send them a gift during the holidays. But for the sake of our children who haven't yet been blessed with sponsors (and because overseas shipping is so expensive and unreliable), we ask that you consider making a gift to HOINA's Christmas Fund instead.

HOINA's Christmas Fund allows us to buy gifts for all of our children—making sure each boy and girl receives something special—and, when funds allow, to give bonuses to our Indian staff members who do so much to run our homes with dignity and love.

Consider sending a gift—any amount would be a blessing—to HOINA's Christmas Fund with the coupon on this page. And don't forget to send a holiday greeting card or photo of your family to your child or to all of our HOINA children. These greetings mean so much to them.

As always, your generosity is such a blessing. You make HOINA's important work in India possible, and we are so deeply grateful.

Your HOINA Child's Name & ID #
 The HOINA Campus
 Kothasunkarapalem
 Balighattam B.O.
 Kothavalasa Mandal
 Vizianagaram 535 183
 A.P.
 INDIA



Sponsorships Make Great Gifts

Yellapu
 Lalitha was
 born on July
 29, 2003.
 She came to
 HOINA in
 June of this
 year.



Her father fell from a palm tree he was cutting down and was killed. Lalitha's mother approached HOINA and asked us to take her.

Lalitha's favorite animal is an elephant. Her favorite color is red. She likes skipping, and her favorite food is Dhum Briyani. She is studying at the government school in Mangalapam, and would like to be a doctor when she is grown.

To sponsor Lalitha, please fill out the coupon on page 3. Our office volunteers will send her photo and history to your designated recipient announcing your gift. 