



NEWS FROM HOINA HOMES OF THE INDIAN NATION

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It's Not All About Onions

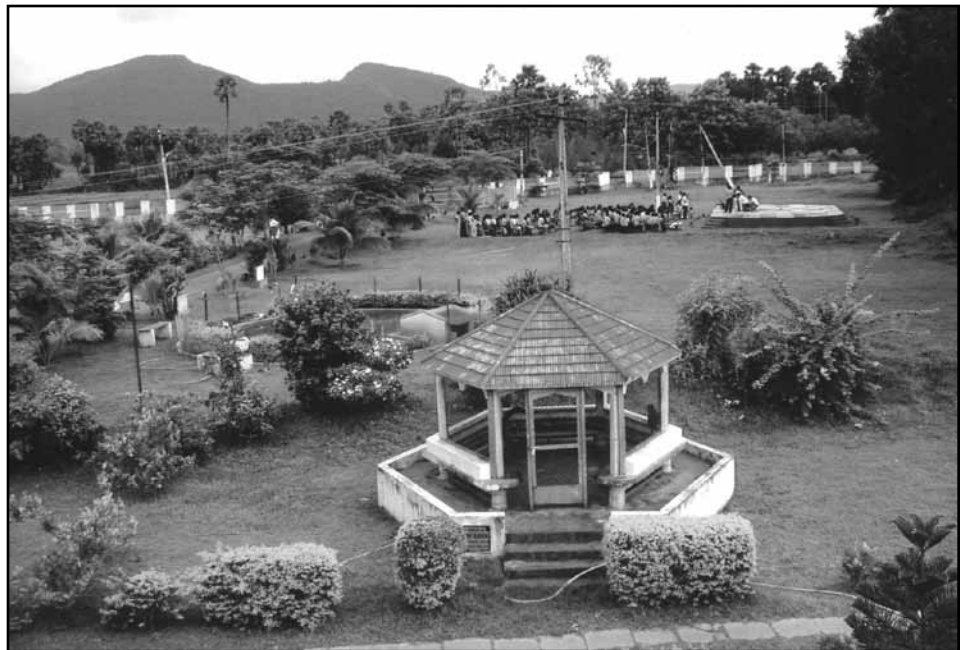
By Bruce Large

HOINA Board Member

I was privileged to spend the month of February this year at the HOINA hostels outside of Vishakapatnam, A.P., India. In many respects it was a very good trip. For the first time in many years, we were not faced with some sort of crisis either in building construction; legal battles; threats against staff, children, or the organization; or dealings with bureaucrats. It was almost peaceful. Nothing but the routine problems of operating and guiding an organization that cares for 200 children while employing about 45 staff persons. (And you think that you have trouble with your teenager!)

The thing that became apparent very early in the trip was that India is changing. It seems that the change is even faster than the changes that we have seen in our own country and economy. Maybe it is more obvious to me now because, for so long, the changes occurred very slowly there.

One of the news stories that kept recurring in the Indian press was about the rising price of onions. The reported price rise was 125% in less than a year. Onions (small red onions) now cost over 80 rupees a kilo. This equates to roughly a \$1.00 a pound or about the same price as we pay for our big red or white onions. So what's the big deal? Onions are almost a staple in India. Almost every meal has onions in it somewhere. Three main staples of Indian dishes are rice, chili peppers, and onions. A diet of rice and little



Looking down on the gazebo and the HOINA Campus

or no meat is very bland. The onions are needed for flavor and the chili peppers, for some heat.

The cost of onions is not typical, but symptomatic of what is happening to the Indian economy. Overall, the cost of food increased 17% in December, and another 14% in January. The sudden surge in growth of the middle class has resulted in significant inflationary pressures. The effect is felt by everybody, but is much more severe on the poor and people with fixed and limited incomes. The poor continue to get poorer. Remember that over 700 million Indian people make up "the poor" there.

How has this affected HOINA? The effect is felt in several ways. First, feeding over 300 people a day takes a significantly larger portion of the budget than it used to. That number includes 200 children, 40 staff, 60+ aged and

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widowed in the feeding programs at Ponduranga-puram and Datti Villages. Our loyal staff have not had raises to their salaries for over five years. They, too, feel the pinch of ever-increasing prices. Sadly, the third effect on HOINA is the impact of the U.S. economic strain on our sponsors who cannot afford to be as generous as they might wish to be.

So what can we, the HOINA family, do? We are a 100% volunteer organization in the U.S. Even our office space is donated. Basically, there are no costs to cut in the U.S. The Indian operation has been short on staff for over two years, but we are trying to stretch our funds as best as we can. Unfortunately, it is difficult to attract talented, educated people to work an hour outside the city for the wages that we can afford to pay. The answer almost has to be increased funding.

The July 2006 newsletter listed some ways that you, our faithful, loyal donors can help. These are still valid, and I want to list them again.

1. Spread the word! If each of you receiving this newsletter will recruit another friend or relative to join us in our efforts, the shortfall can be met.
2. Get your Church, Bible Study Group, or Sunday School Class interested. Ask them to sponsor a child. Tell them about HOINA. Read the newsletter to them. This



Small Red Onions



A two-month supply of chilies drying in the sun for use at our girls' home.

- spreads the cost to the point where it is almost painless.
3. Are you a member of a service club? Lions Club, Rotary Club, Kiwanis, Ladies Clubs and so many other service groups are looking for projects to support. Many clubs are interested in working in their own communities, and this is good. Could you ask if they'd like to take on the support of just one child at \$30 a month?
 4. Over the years we have approached a number of foundation and charitable organizations that make grants to not-for-profit groups without any success. If any of you are aware of a charitable foundation that makes grants to organizations such as ours, please contact our office so that we can apply.
 5. If you receive this newsletter and are not a contributor, I would ask you to consider doing so. No donation is too small. All are greatly appreciated and are tax deductible.
 6. Please share the newsletter with family and friends. Take it to work with you. If you have a civic bulletin board, post a copy of it. Spread the word of this work.

The list in 2006 had one more point which I have removed. That point was a plea to current donors to increase their already generous donations. You responded at that time, and I don't feel that with the current condition of our economy that I can ask for more. All we can ask is that you help to spread the word and thank you for your continued and generous support.

It is not all about onions.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Account Number (on your mailing label): _____

I want a Sponsorship a HOINA boy / girl (*circle one*).

Here is my first monthly gift of \$30.

Use this gift to finance HOINA's ongoing projects through the General Fund.

This gift of \$ _____ is in honor/memory of
(please give name and address of person): _____

(please print clearly)

Mail coupon to: **HOINA**
PO Box 636
Brownstown, PA 17508-0636



ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX-DEDUCTIBLE

June2011

Family: More Than Blood Relatives



Amanda with one of the HOINA girls; a new "family" member.

By Amanda Hillery-Mills
York College of Pennsylvania Student

Before leaving for my three-week trip to India with York College of Pennsylvania, I was told horror stories about what people have encountered in Indian orphanages and how sorry I am going to feel for the children who live there. Even reading some of the biographies that I had read about the HOINA children would bring tears to my eyes. I had mentally prepared my-

self for the pain and sadness I would feel for these innocent children who really were never given a chance. I couldn't have been more wrong.

As the van pulled through the gates of HOINA, you could already see the smiling children who had been very excited for us to finally arrive. As a few of the children hopped into the van to give us the flowers that they had picked and arranged in bouquets for us beautifully, tears again came to my eyes. However, this time not

with sad thoughts of the life that the children had had prior to coming to HOINA or the thought that many of these children had very little family, but the tears came from my joyful surprise at the amount of love and happiness that is HOINA.

Even though we had been traveling for several days now, the children did not hesitate to run up and wrap their see **Family** - page 4

HOINA is a 501(c)3, tax-exempt organization with international headquarters located at:
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Dasar Tejaswini Kumari

HOINA Child Sponsorship

Dasari Tejaswini Kumari was born July 22, 2001. She came to HOINA in June of 2010.

Tejaswini Kumari's parents had three daughters. Her father left them and moved in with another woman because he wanted sons. Her mother worked as an ayah in a hospital, but could not support three children, so she brought the children to us, and we admitted them.

Tejaswini Kumari likes elephants, the color pink, and tennis. She would like to be an engineer when she is grown. She is currently studying at the Christian School in Gnanapuram, Visakhapatnam.

Feel free to return the coupon on page three with your first gift if you would like to sponsor this little girl in time for her 10th birthday. We thank you for your generosity.

Family: More Than Blood Relatives

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arms around us. We were their sisters (and brothers) and automatically accepted into this family that they have made. I looked around to see not crying children without parents but instead happy, smiling faces with more sisters, brothers, and friends than they could ask for. Before they knew our names, they were welcoming us into their lives with open arms and all the

love in the world.

For our next couple weeks in India, I have never been as happy. I asked one of the older boys about his family one day while painting, and he informed me that he had a very large family. When I asked how many brothers he had, he said, "Sister, I have over 100 brothers and now I have 8 more American sisters and 2 more American brothers." It

was then that I realized that a family was more than a group of people with the same last name. A family was love.

I returned from HOINA with not only a new appreciation for all of the people in my life who love me but with over 200 more brothers and sisters. I will never forget the people I met and the lessons I learned at HOINA. I wouldn't have it any other way. 