



NEWS FROM HOINA HOMES OF THE INDIAN NATION

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HOINA Hero & Angel of the Year Announced

By Darlene Large, HOINA President

I came home from India at the very end of March. Moving the boys into their new home last spring, beginning tile designs with them for our new home, taking in new orphans from the Adivasee tribal villages, moving our girls from a Tamil language state to a Telegu-speaking state 600 miles north, packing, unpacking, and dealing with problems concerning teens who did not want to move from the city to the country made for two very busy trips in 2009. Finally, as I packed my suitcases to come home to the USA this year, I realized that everyone seemed calm, settled, and happy to be in their new home.

However, in the craziness of moving, I realized that we had forgotten to elect an Angel of the Year and a Hero of the Year. Both boy and girl must be good students, helpful in the home, receive good marks and good reports from their teachers, set a good example for the younger HOINA boys and girls, and be respectful to the staff. When the votes were finally counted from everyone in the homes, I saw that they had chosen the students whom I thought were great role models.

Prakash has been with us for 18 years. He has always been a joy to raise. Prakash was born in 1983. When he was nine months old, he became ill with a high fever and was diagnosed with polio. In 1988 his father worked for the ILTD company and earned ten rupees a day. In those days, that translated into a dollar a day. He suffered with heart failure and died. Shortly after this Prakash's mother was struggling to feed her children. As a widow, she had difficulty caring for a five-year-old with polio. She was working in the fields daily when she learned about HOINA.



Prakash

It was in 2001 that I became better acquainted with Prakash because we were searching for someone to help him with his polio problems. Shriners' Hospital in Chicago accepted him for corrective back surgery. Our general manager, Anand, asked Prakash to write his story for us. I'll let you read it for yourselves:

My name is Prakash. I was joined in HOINA in 1992. When I was a little child, my father dead of a heart attack. My mother did very hard work to feed my brother, sister and me. Suddenly, I became sick

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Hero and Angel

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with polio when a baby. We don't know when we will eat three meals a day. In this position my mother was not able to send me to school.

One of the HOINA boys has seen our family's position and told to my mother that if you put your child in HOINA then HOINA Mom will give good education and food. My mother approached our HOINA Mom and immediately Mom gave me admission and clutches [crutches] to walk.

Mom and staff treated me like their own child. They took care of my life, and if I have fever or any problem they took me to hospital. After a short time, Mom took me to America for backbone operation to hospital. My sponsors, Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Penning, treat me like their family. I like art so Mom put me in art school, and she taught me mosaic tile art. I am so thankful to God and to Mom. If Mom may not help me I would die.

Now, I am in my second year of college. After finishing my B. Com, I want to study B. of Ed. After my education, I will get good job and help HOINA with new orphan children so they can be success like me. This year my HOINA brothers voted me Hero of the Year. I am very happy and proud to be a HOINA Hero.

God bless everyone who is helping HOINA students.

Prakash



Alak

Alak's proper name is H.A. Laklephi. Her family was also very poor and illiterate. They earned their living

by plowing and working in the rice paddies and doing vegetable gardening. One day Alak's father went to the fields where he died from a heart attack. After a few months, her mother became very ill with typhoid, and it settled in her brain. She died in August of 1995.

A few years later, a relative studying in Chennai heard about HOINA and requested admission for Alak and her little cousin. Both were admitted.

In her school, Alak and some of our girls are receiving karate coaching. Within a short time she became so skilled in karate that when she participated in a state level competition, she won. We are proud of Alak, of her love and help to the little girls, and proud to announce that she has won the Angel of the Year Award in HOINA. She is an outstanding role model for our younger girls.

As I was leaving India in late March, Alak handed me a birthday card for my 75th birthday.

Dear Mom,

We cannot buy you any gift but we promise we will obey you and all the staff. We will give respect to all the staff and elders. This is our birthday gift to you. Take care of your health.

We will pray for you and for Papa. We will miss you so please come back soon. Happy birthday, we love you. I love you. May God bless you. Happy journey. Wish you happy birthday. You are the mother of Indian children so take care.

Love, Alak

I read her card and was full of joy thinking of all the children and how dear they are and then planning for the next stages of our work. We desperately need to replace the wooden windows and doors with metal ones due to the serious termite problem we have. Finding \$20,000 dollars to do this is a great challenge for us. If you're able to help with any donation at all, we would appreciate it.

It really was a great trip this winter. Seeing the new house go up for our herdman and his family to live in gave all of us a great sense of accomplishment. The boys took our leftover cement and sand, and with the help of one of our gardeners they made a new, larger duck pond. The

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PO Box 636
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MAY/2010



I want to sponsor a HOINA boy / girl (*circle one*). Here is my first monthly gift of \$30.

Let me help replace the windows and doors
Darlene mentioned in her article with this donation of \$ _____.

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



ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX-DEDUCTIBLE

HOINA Loses a Dear Friend

We announce with sadness that former HOINA Board Member and friend, Dr. A. Lawrence Gagnon, 80, died April 3, 2010, at Hospice of Lancaster County. He was born August 1, 1929, in Detroit, Michigan. Dr. Gagnon received his B.S. from Michigan State University in 1951; he earned an M.A. from Michigan State in 1953 and completed his Ed.D. at Wayne State University in 1965. Dr. Gagnon was retired from Manheim Township School District where he was the Superintendent.

I was an elementary art teacher when I first met Dr. Larry Gagnon. He was the superintendent of schools, and I was the art teacher in one of his district's elementary schools. The children had made clay ceramic models of their favorite foods ... pizza, hamburgers, etc. I did an exhibit in the District Office. Dr. Gagnon was very enthusiastic about it. He was the kind of boss who had a smile that could brighten the cloudiest day. His encouragement made me so happy. All the effort and work on the exhibit was worth it.

Later on he learned about HOINA and my work in India. Eventually, I asked him to serve on our board of directors. He even made a trip to India with his son, Sean. While accommodations back then were more primitive than they are now, he joined in all the fun and games with the children and helped me to plan for the future. His long, untiring efforts with Rotary Club International gained us our two vans and our bunk beds and finally our generator. His efforts allowed me to receive my honorary membership in Rotary. When things were difficult, he continued giving me words of encouragement. He was unforgettable. We named our Cunningham-Gagnon English Medium School (an elementary school in American "terms") after him and our other board director and fellow-Rotarian, Jim Cunningham. After many years, we closed that school and sold the property to relocate to our new Visak property. We were sad to see that happen, but we plan to build a new vocational school on our current land. Dr. Gagnon's commitment to education has always inspired us and will continue to do so now that he has passed away.

~ Darlene Large



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HOINA
PO Box 87
Saint Charles, MO 63302-0087
U.S.A.

Email address: info@hoina.org

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HOINA
PO Box 636
Brownstown, PA 17508-0636
U.S.A.

Tel. 717.355.9494

Toll-free: 877.99.HOINA (4.6462)

Email address: admin@hoina.org

Website: www.hoina.org

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Hero and Angel

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children love sitting on the benches and watching the ducks swim around. We have 11 of them now. Our seven cows from last year are now fifteen; three are carrying calves. Our monkey seems to be happy in his large cage. When two baby parrots fell out of a tree that was being cut down, we fed them cut-up worms and added cow's milk and the yolk of the hard-cooked egg to make a "delicious" soupy paste that they eat from a spoon. After a while bananas, papayas, and tomatoes took a back seat to our worm "stew." Our children learn so many things by being surrounded by nature and God's creatures. We are grateful to all of our donors who help make this work possible. 🐼



Pinkie, our new HOINA parrot

Change a Child's Life With Your Monthly Support



Barnikani Ermaidu

Barnikani Ermaidu was born October 10, 1997. His father is a poor shepherd who was so distraught after the death of his wife and second child he could not care for Ermaidu. Ermaidu's grandmother approached HOINA and asked us to take Ermaidu so he would be taken care of.

Ermaidu is studying at the Government Primary School in Kantakapalli. His favorite color is yellow. He likes bears and crickets. He wants to be a policeman when he grows up.

For \$30/ month you can sponsor Ermaidu. Please fill out the coupon on page three and mail in with your first month's check. 🐼