



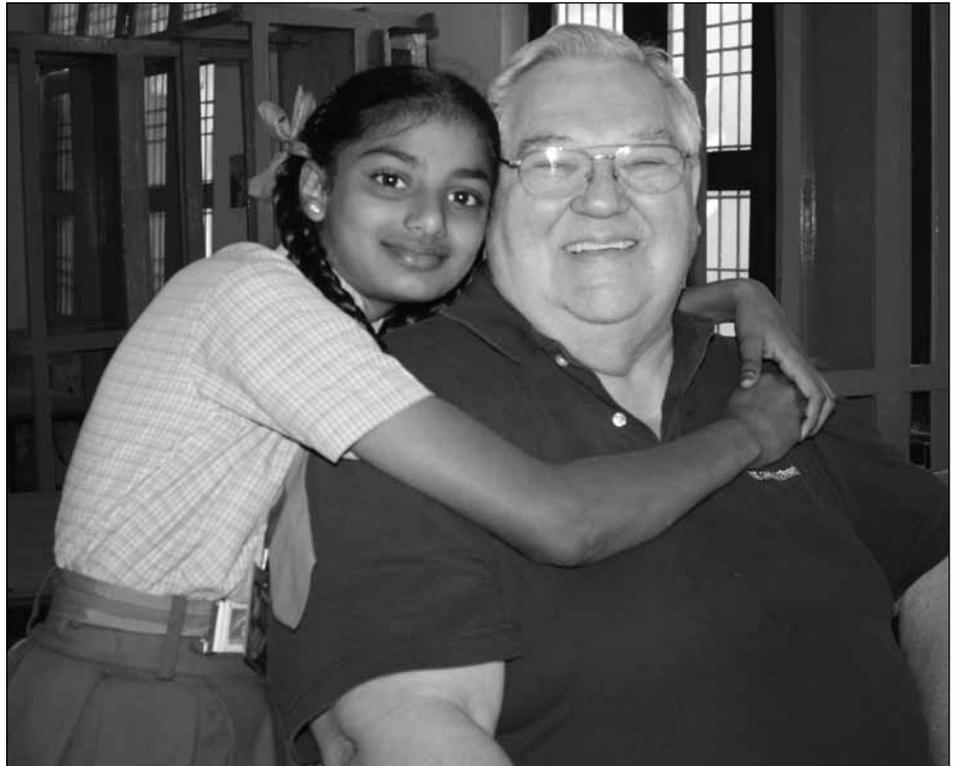
# NEWS FROM HOINA HOMES OF THE INDIAN NATION

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

## Snippets, Snatches and Scenes from India

By Bruce "Papa" Large  
HOINA Board Member

Since Darlene arrived in early January, guests and volunteers have continued to come and go. HOINA Board Member Jim Cunningham and his wife Marge have returned to their home in the States. By the time you read this, I will be home after a month-long stay, and new volunteer Cecilia Gutierrez arrived last week. As of this writing, a dear friend and Brother-in-Christ, Lee Stover, has made his way safely home to Missouri. Lee was here at HOINA for only ten short days, but during that time he captivated the hearts of all the little girls and boys. His last night of teaching ended up in a sob-fest for all concerned. What a trooper! He was always game for anything including South Indian food. The heat level of some of the dishes has been known to make grown men cry for help, but he sampled everything willing. The only time he missed a beat was when he suffered a nasty fall after church and ended up in the emergency room. He even turned this into a praise event because of the concern and care he received. A pleasant surprise was the tiny cost of his visit when compared



Divaya gives Papa a big hug.

to our U.S. emergency rooms. Treatment, dressings, medicine, and a tetanus shot came to less than \$10 U.S.

A day trip to the Borra Cave and mountains of the Araku Valley presented beautiful vistas and exotic scenery. We two old men did not attempt the cave due to the numerous steps involved, but our faithful driver, Prasad; our housemother at the girls' home, Subdrah; and a volunteer from the States did the descent. We

traveled four hours each way in our 10-year-old Tata Sumo, a ruggedly built, sturdy vehicle with all the comforts of an old army tank. The trip was well worth it as we viewed the local "big cats" with cubs. A recent census by the Andhra Pradesh State Forestry and Wildlife Service seen in the newspaper showed a viable tiger population at well over 200 in this state and a leopard population of just over 200;

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# Snippets, Snatches and Scenes from India

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both are protected species.

Whenever we are here, numerous capital projects and repairs surface in rapid succession and seemingly without end. A current project is underway to wall our 22-acre compound. We have tried barbed wire fence around the perimeter, but this has not worked well. The wall is necessary for the protection of our property and children. Many villagers are of a mind set that says that anything that is not guarded, nailed down, or locked up is considered to be “lost,” and can therefore be “found” by the lucky individual who comes upon it. The “found” items by “villagers” include a goat, a valuable hard wood tree, and the barbed wire fence, among other things.

As we progress into the dry season, it becomes imperative that we complete the repairs to the “Hugh Williams” bore well. The submersible pump in this deep well has died and must be pulled and replaced. This problem is compounded by a defect in the well casing making it more difficult and expensive.

The long driveway back to the new boys’ home turns into a quagmire during the rainy season and requires a solution before the rains start in September. This project moves to the “major repair” category because the driveway is almost 625 yards long and has low spots capable of miring a heavy vehicle.

Our two vans are still running, for which we are grateful. One runs better than the other, but stuffing 42 kids into a 18-passenger van is, at best, an unsafe practice and, at worse, a potentially disastrous one. We are



Preethi Shalini with “Uncle” Lee Stover and HOINA house mother Subadrah.

working with Indian benefactors to try to get a 55-passenger bus donated to us. Hopefully and prayerfully, we will be successful. A good bus of this size costs around \$20,000 U. S.

We have a severe termite problem at the first home we built on this property. Apparently, we constructed right on top of a large colony of the critters. While they are not eating us out of house and home, they are definitely consuming the house—wood morsel by wood morsel. We will hire a professional exterminator to be rid of the pests but will still have to replace many of the wood doorframes and windows with aluminum ones. We used aluminum ones in the new boys’ home, and they appear to be working well.

The two children’s homes are nothing short of beautiful—inside and out. They are visible from the main road and look as good either day or night. Even though this is the dry season in our area, many of the normally brown fallow fields are being double cropped with fast-growing

vegetables. In the mountains west of us, the terraced rice paddies are already being planted because of the mountain spring water that is available. The whole area has taken on a new vibrancy and beauty. The green paddies in the terraced hills give a beautiful patchwork quilt effect when observed from high up.

The happiness, peace, and serenity that exists at these homes is an awesome thing to behold. The absolute joyful exuberance of the children is contagious to staff and guests alike. I find it to be a welcome relief after years of battling corrupt and unscrupulous businessmen, unfeeling and greedy bureaucrats, criminal perverts using and blackening the name of HOINA, and unwilling staff undermining Darlene’s efforts. Finally, we are feeling nothing but good vibes.

Don’t take this to mean that she has nothing to do. In the first two weeks that I have been in India, she has made a three-day trip by car to Hyderabad to meet with officials about getting our state certification as an

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Here is my first monthly gift of \$30.

Let me help with the repairs Papa Large mentioned in his article with this donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

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

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MARCH/2010



**ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX-DEDUCTIBLE**



## Snippets, Snatches and Scenes from India

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approved hostel for child care. We have made two trips to Visianagaram, to the District Police Headquarters to register foreign visitors. She went to Chennai early today by train to do bank business, meet with our CPA, and deal with the sale of the old girls' home property. At 75 she is still the "Energizer Bunny" as we call her. She just keeps going and going (by God's grace, we know).

Some have heard me say over the years that I have a love/hate relationship with India. I want to publicly declare that I am now at peace here. Darlene has long said that she could live here, and now I can say the same thing. I do have one caveat. I must have my air conditioning for the nine long hot months of the year. During my stay, the weather has been absolutely delightful. A low temperature of the high 60's at

night and a high in the mid 80's. The sun is hot, but air temperatures are very pleasant. Who knows where retirement will find me? Of course, that would mean I have to retire.

To all of our faithful supporters we send a sincere, heartfelt Thank You. Come visit us and see what your support has done. When a small amount of money is well spent, the results can be amazing. ♿

## Your Help Gives Hope

Ravi Teja was born July 31, 1998, and admitted to HOINA July 19, 2008. His parents were married in 1988. His father was a businessman. Between 1989 and 1998, the family had a girl and two boys. Unfortunately, his father became an alcoholic and started to neglect his family. Ravi Teja's mother constantly worried about her children and finally became ill. She died in 2007. At that point, the father married another woman and left his children. The daughter approached HOINA, seeking a place for her younger brother Ravi Teja. He is in the fourth grade. He hopes to become a boxer when he is grown. His favorite color is blue, and he likes tigers. His favorite games are caroms and cricket. ♿



Ravi Teja

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

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# The Trip of a Lifetime

By Mara Warder

I work as a drug and alcohol counselor at a non-profit organization in Tulsa, Oklahoma. I found out about HOINA from a co-worker, Glory Janes, who worked for HOINA in India before coming to the U.S. My husband Allen and I had wanted to take a “trip of a lifetime,” and India sounded quite exotic (It is!). I also wanted to do some volunteer work. Glory suggested that I check out the HOINA website. After I did, I connected with Mom [HOINA President Darlene Large], who said that we would be welcome to visit. Allen and I had been talking about taking this trip for over a year, and it was a big deal for me especially since I had never been out of the country before.

India was so different—chaotic, filled with smells, and with people **everywhere**. Visiting India for three weeks last November was truly a fantastic experience. During our ten days at HOINA, we would assist wherever we could. In the mornings I helped the little girls get dressed for school. They were so bright and happy, eager to let me help do up buttons and straighten ties. When the children came home, Allen encouraged the boys with their studies while enjoying some laughs and exchanges of cultural information. I, too, helped the girls with their studies and got to know them on a more personal level. While Allen played cricket with the boys, I went to the kitchen and helped the ladies prepare meals. They were always ready



Mara with the girls

with a cup of coffee or tea and a friendly smile. It is obvious there is much love put into the facility.

We had a wonderful time and felt that we were getting much more than we were giving to the children. Allen wanted me to add that we have never been treated so graciously before and how welcome everybody made us feel. The level of compassion the staff had for the children and for us made it an overwhelming experience. This past December we finally got to meet Mom in person as she passed through Oklahoma on her way to Dallas. It was a pleasure to meet her in person as she had not been at HOINA while we visited there. 