



NEWS FROM HOINA HOMES OF THE INDIAN NATION

PO Box 87, St. Charles, Missouri 63302 • www.hoina.org • November 2009

Service Learning Project Successful

By Matthew Branch

Guest from Schreyer Honors College

Our group headed to the chapel behind the HOINA medical clinic in Bapatla. The small building, a modest whitewashed structure surrounded by denuded, dusty terrain, was full of elderly women. Most were widows, some not, but all of them had one thing in common: they were poor, many abjectly, and they had made it a habit to come to the HOINA clinic everyday at lunchtime to eat a nourishing meal. Thanks to HOINA, their day guaranteed at least that much.

Five other undergraduate students, Patrick, Nikki, Deepa, Kristina, Rebecca, and I had come with our two

teaching assistants, Matt and Shaunna, today in order to participate in this midday ritual. Our overarching purpose on this trip was to volunteer at the Homes of the Indian Nation (HOINA) boys and girls home located in Vizianagaram District, Andhra Pradesh, India.



K. Pavan Kumar & Rebecca Eddenger

HOINA is an organization started by Darlene Large in 1978 for the care of young orphaned, abused, and underprivileged Indian children. Its purview is farther reaching today, as the medical clinic which we were visiting at tests, as well as the Bethany Leprosy Colony we had visited earlier that day,

which has also benefited from the help of Darlene, or “Mom” as she insists everyone call her. We were working at HOINA as a part of a service-learning project

see **PROJECT SUCCESSFUL** - page 2

Project Successful

Continued from page 1

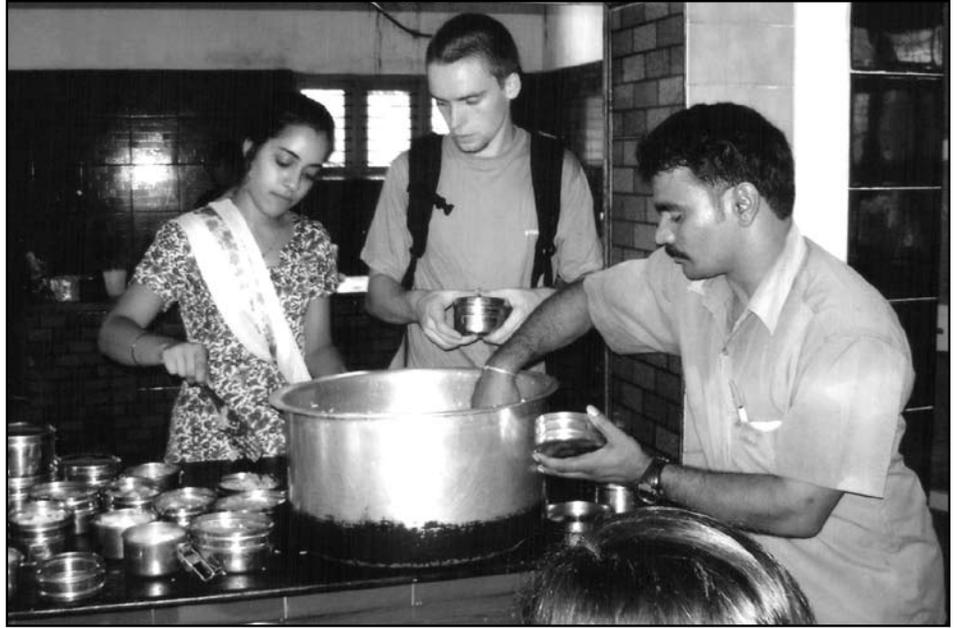
run in conjunction with the Penn State Schreyer Honors College—a project which Mom, a distinguished Penn State alumna, also initiated.

The program in which we were today participating, dubbed the “Grandma Lunch,” was started by HOINA in 2005 after the infamous tsunami of late 2004 struck the southern Indian coast and left many of these women homeless or in deep poverty. Today our group was going to be serving this lunch, one of many such undertakings we had the honor to carry out while in Andhra Pradesh. We were not informed beforehand—as sometimes happened during our trip to India, where we were on a constantly changing schedule—but we were happy to oblige the request to meet and serve these “grandmas” who had experienced so much adversity.

Each of us had a specific food or task that we were accountable for—I served ladles full of thick yellow dal—and our operation ran quite smoothly. I watched as the women ate heartily, most of them easygoing,



Tony Arnold and Patrick Powers serving on the grandmas' lunch line.



Penn State students Manpreet and Patrick help Bhaskar pack lunches for HOINA's children.

not as worried or concerned as I thought they might be, considering their circumstances. I felt proud to have helped them, to have participated in this ritual through which one hand aids in feeding another—not in a demeaning manner, but so as to demonstrate our solidarity. Though it was a “cross-cultural” experience it seemed much more effortless than such a word implies. We were simply people helping people.

After the ladies finished eating, we gathered up the dishes, packed up lunches for a few stragglers and absentees, and tended to the extra food. Before the grandmas left they came to the front of the chapel and gathered, with one woman with short silver hair and piercing gray eyes standing in contrast to the others. She spoke to us insistently in Telugu and pointed to us each individually. She was asking what our names were, what we studied. Anand, HOINA's general manager and our guide for the trip, translated the exchange with the woman. As we were wrapping up the conversation the woman said in Telugu with a confident smile, “You are beautiful people.” I could not help but think, but did not articulate, as she and the others left the room, “So are you, Ma'am. So are they.” 🙏

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Account Number (on your mailing label): _____

Mail coupon to: **HOINA**

PO Box 636

Brownstown, PA 17508-0636



NOV/2009



Please use this \$ _____ toward the Christmas Fund.

I would like to order _____ sets of notecards.
Here's my check for \$ _____ made out to
HOINA.

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

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

(please print clearly)

ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX-DEDUCTIBLE

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 #

HOINA Children's Home

Kothasunkarapalem

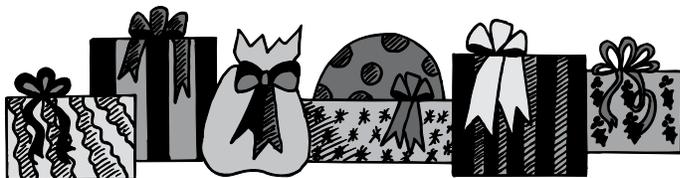
Balighattam B.O.

Kothavalasa Mandal

Vizianagaram 535 183

A.P.

INDIA



www.hoina.org

If you haven't checked our website recently, you're in for a treat! You can meet some of our children in need of sponsors, see what's new at HOINA and get all the latest news - it's quick and easy!

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

HOINA
PO Box 87
Saint Charles, MO 63302-0087
U.S.A.
Email address: hoina1@yahoo.com

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:

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

The official registration and financial information of Homes of the Indian Nation (HOINA) may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling, toll-free in PA, 1.800.732.0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.



HOINA
 PO Box 636
 Brownstown, PA 17508-0636

Return Service Requested

Non-profit Org.
 U.S. Postage
PAID
 Permit #242
 New Holland, PA

Child Sponsorships Make Great Holiday Gifts



Koyya Upendra

Koyya Upendra was born on November 3, 1996. His father became HIV positive and suffered with tuberculosis. Later, Upendra's mother also was found to be HIV positive. His father died in June, 2008. At that time his mother was very ill, and her church pastor gave the family shelter.

Upendra was admitted to HOINA the next month, in July of 2008, and is in the 7th grade in a government school. He does well in his studies and also is recognized for his singing abilities. When he is grown, Upendra wants to become a lawyer. Green is his favorite color, and he likes elephants. He also enjoys playing cricket.

Our HOINA children can be sponsored in honor of someone you love. Your monthly gift of \$30 will cover all costs associated with his care—food, clothing, medical care, shelter, and schooling costs.

To sponsor Upendra please fill out the coupon on the previous page and send it to our HOINA office with your first monthly gift. Our office volunteers will send his photo and history to your designated recipient announcing your gift. 

Full-Color Notecards Perfect for Teacher Gifts

In an effort to promote HOINA and educate people on the work we do, we are selling batik note cards created by boys at HOINA. One of the batik prints is pictured to the right (the notecards are in color). The front features an original batik, and the back provides a short description of HOINA and the work we do. We are selling them in sets of 8 for \$10 (includes shipping).

These cards make wonderful Christmas cards or thank you notes. To place an order, use the coupon on page 3. Thanks for your support. 

