



NEWS FROM HOINA HOMES OF THE INDIAN NATION

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

Dedication

HOINA Boys' Home Marks Special Occasion

By Amy Mowbray

Kris Zes and I arrived at the HOINA hostel Sunday evening, and found out that the dedication of the new boys' home would take place that Saturday. There was much to get done before the dedication, but everyone was ready to pitch in.

Monday morning found us in the courtyard of the boys' home working on the tile mosaics on the 12 columns in the courtyard. Each column has four sides, with each side having a self-portrait of a girl. These were drawn by the older girls and were as varied as real children. Chris and I tackled the labor-intensive process of cutting small pieces of tile to glue onto the

columns. We had a boy to help us with the gluing. He manned the cement and spread it on each piece of tile for us. For five days we worked—always eight or more people working—some staff members, some older boys, younger boys helped after school. As the deadline approached, the staff worked late into the night. Each picture was a work of art, full of bright colors.

Outside a crew of 12-15 villagers worked on building a retaining wall, laying concrete on the driveway, and planting flowers. The women carried concrete blocks and large baskets of sand and dirt on their heads, toiling all day in the hot sun.

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Mosaic Tile Work at HOINA

Mom told the boys that these mosaic girls are the only ones allowed in the boys' hostel! (picture left)

The boys working on the hopscotch board and mosaic floor (right).



Dedication

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The dedication was scheduled for 4 p.m. on Saturday. On Saturday morning we still weren't finished and kept at white-washing walls, planting flowers, and other last-minute cleaning up. Kris and I packed snacks in small bags to distribute to the guests. Someone drove to the Coke® plant to pick up the drinks they graciously had donated to us. A large tent was set up, and 400 chairs were delivered and set up under it.

At 3 p.m. people started to arrive. The children were seated. At 4 p.m. we walked up to cut the ribbon, and the visitors received a tour. Afterward we reassembled in the tent for the program. One of the older boys served as Master of Ceremonies, introducing the speakers. Mom, (Darlene) spoke first and talked about starting HOINA 30+ years ago with seven children. She talked about the thousands of children HOINA has touched. She said, "God has built HOINA, not Mom, not Papa, but God. This is God's house." The kids responded with "big claps."

Next, Papa spoke. He talked about the love that is HOINA and has built HOINA and his love for the children. Next came Mr. Roberts, the head of the Indian Child Welfare Board. He said that HOINA is the best run home in the state. He said Andhra Pradesh is a very beautiful part of India, and the people are very



Kris Zes visits from St. Charles, Missouri



The song, "I Love My India," was the number one event on the program.

friendly. ILN Prasad, a member of the Indian HOINA Board of Trustees spoke next. He is amazed that Mom, an American woman, can have so much love for the Indian children.

Then the children offered entertainment, with songs, including the Indian national anthem, "Let There Be Peace on Earth," and other songs in the Telugu language. Small groups of girls and boys performed numerous dances in the native custom. The big boys' skit earned quite a few laughs from the audience.

As I sat back and watched, I thought of all the people who have been a part of HOINA over the last 30 years. I thought of Darlene, Bruce, the staff, the children, the sponsors, the volunteers in America, the visitors who have come to India, the native Indians who support us here, and the Indian and American Boards. They have all made HOINA a labor of love and safe haven for so many of society's outcast. I thought of the HOINA kids who have grown up and offered to become house parents, so that other children will get the opportunities they received. I thought how love can create something bigger than all the individual efforts put together, something that will endure beyond us.

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Name: _____

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Account Number (on your mailing label): _____

Mail coupon to: **HOINA**

PO Box 636

Brownstown, PA 17508-0636



OCT/2009



I want to sponsor 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.

Please use this \$ _____ toward the Christmas Fund.

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

ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX-DEDUCTIBLE



Amy Mowbray, Secretary of the USA HOINA board, speaks at the dedication of the new boys home.



Christmas at HOINA

Because of you, our sponsors, we are able to provide a Christmas celebration for our staff and children. Costs have risen terribly overseas just as they have here at home. If you have anything to share this year, we are asking you send it soon as we must send the designated funds to India in time for our staff to shop and prepare for the holiday.

The reasons we ask you to give to our Christmas Fund rather than sending a gift directly overseas:

1. Some gifts don't arrive safely in the mail.
2. Unless you pay a lot to ship them overseas, they take a long time to arrive. The money you spend for shipping could go directly to the Christmas Fund and provide an even bigger blessing to HOINA.
3. The children who don't have sponsors or whose sponsors don't send them something feel neglected.

Thank you for honoring our policy. 

Dedication

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That is Darlene's wish for HOINA, and my wish, too.

As the darkness began to set in, we headed up to the gleaming white building that has become the boys' home to celebrate with the children, and with the community, and with the staff, the joy that HOINA has brought to a small part of India. 

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

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HOINA Boys' Home Dedicated

See full story with more pictures beginning on page one



Papa Bruce Large celebrated his 77th birthday early while visiting the boys' home. (It's really on October 10th.) Any reason for a party is a good reason at HOINA!



Her Happy Smile is Worth Sponsoring



Vanka Sravanthi

Vanka Sravanthi's parents were married in 2002. Her father was working as a house painter. Between 2003 and 2006, the couple had two girls and a boy. Sravanthi is the middle child. Her father fell while working and was treated for his injuries. However, about three months later he had a stroke and lost his speech. When he was admitted to a hospital, it was found he had a blood clot in his brain. He died three days later in August, 2008.

Sravanthi's mother took work as a house maid but could not provide for her three children. Some of her husband's co-workers suggested that she place her two girls in the HOINA hostel. After seeing the social and economic conditions of the family, Sravanthi and her sister were admitted.

Sravanthi is not yet going to school. She is described by the HOINA staff as calm and happy. If you would like to sponsor her, or a different HOINA child, check the coupon on page 3, or visit our website: www.hoina.org. 