



NEWS FROM HOINA HOMES OF THE INDIAN NATION

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A Glimpse Into Time at HOINA

By Matthew Branch

Guest from Schreyer Honors College

A chorus of “Good morning Matt-ana” erupted from the cafeteria as I walked in, and I smiled at how quickly the students at HOINA had accepted me as one of the family. The suffix ‘ana’ means older brother in Telugu, the mother language of most of the students. It was only our second day there, but already our trip was full of memories. Since arriving, we had played cricket, helped the students with their homework (which I was surprised they were doing on a Saturday night), and begun to develop friendships with some of the more outgoing children. All in the first 24 hours.

Every year Pennsylvania State University’s Schreyer Honors College in conjunction with the Geography Department organizes a service learning trip to volunteer at HOINA. After initial interviews to make sure that the student is well suited for the program, students spend the spring semester enrolled



The Penn State students mingle with the HOINA boys during a talent show.

in a course that teaches them about volunteerism, HOINA, and India in general. The course is traditionally taught by a team of two geography graduate students who are often conducting their own research in South Asia. Schreyer Honors College is able to provide funding for the students that helps to cover the majority of their airplane ticket and program costs, helping make

the volunteer experience less of a financial burden for the students.

The actual trip occurs during our summer vacation. We try to keep the trip as close to the end of summer as possible, as the monsoon helps to cool the temperature down a bit (I think the average daily high for our trip was around 95 degrees!). In years past the Penn

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State students spent a little over a week at the girls' home in Chennai and then traveled by train north to the boys' home in Visak and again spent just over a week there. However, this year, since both homes are now in Visak, we were able to spend the entire trip with both groups. While here we helped build a tiki hut, worked on a wall mural, organized the library, helped with homework, taught English, and helped out the staff by chopping vegetables, attending sick children, and taking care of infants.

Thanks to the amazing staff at HOINA, we also were able to visit Bapatla, a small city about 300 miles south of Visak, where we were able to tour the Bethany leprosy colony, SHADOWS AIDS hospital, a dental clinic, Baer Hospital (first founded in 1909), Vision Institute of Science and Technology, as well as HOINA's program of feeding elderly women lunches (all in less than two days!). It was an incredibly unique experience.

Over the next several months, our students will be submitting stories about their experiences here for the newsletter, the stories will also be sent out to their hometown newspapers to spread awareness about HOINA. We hope that the stories we share bring a smile to your faces and help you to better understand our program and get a glimpse of our time here. ♿



Deepa teaches some of the staff the words for fruits during an English language lesson.



The HOINA hot lunch program for poor village widows affected by the tsunami is still going strong. Here PSU student Kristina (in front) helps by serving rice for lunch.

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SEPT/09



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: \$ _____

This gift of \$ _____ is in honor OR memory of (*circle one*): _____

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*May millions of Americans appreciate
your mighty hand.*

*May they stand united for our freedom,
as they struggle in our land.*

*Keep us humble, strong and loyal to you,
Help us to be proud to serve
the red, white and blue.*

*For this is a trying and difficult year
And rumors fly from ear to ear.*

*From the prairies to the tops of the mountains
From the oceans white with foam.*

*My prayer, dear God,
is that you will bless America,
Our home, our dear and loving home.*

~ D. Large



Penn State students (from left to right) Manpreet, Rebecca, Tony and Patrick help chop vegetables for dinner.

Searches Make Cents!

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

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You Can Help Keep a Smile on Her Face



Yureiwon Kashungnao

Yureiwon Kashungnao was born February 5, 2005 and was admitted to HOINA in June, 2008. Her parents both worked in the fields. They were killed in a road accident in April, 2005. Their uncle was able to provide for the two older sisters, but could not continue to have all three children.

Yureiwon enjoys school and wants to be a teacher when she is grown. She loves to play ball. Yureiwon's favorite color is yellow and her favorite animal is the tiger. 

Remember Mom in your Prayers

HOINA President, Darlene Large, is in India working with HOINA's staff and children until the end of September. Feel free to write an encouraging note to her at hoina@sbcglobal.net. Papa Bruce will be joining Darlene by the time you read this. Please pray for their safety while they're overseas.

The power and Internet connections have not always been steady this summer, but she will read your messages when she is able.



*Make us worthy, Lord
 to serve others throughout
 the world who live and die
 in poverty and hunger.
 Give them, through our hands,
 this day their daily bread
 and by our understanding love,
 give peace and joy.*

~ Mother Teresa