



NEWS FROM HOINA HOMES OF THE INDIAN NATION

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Winter Update

*By Darlene Large
HOINA President*

It was early on a mid-January morning when I came out of my apartment above the girls' home near Visakhapatnam and looked down into the courtyard that borders four dormitories. I noticed five little girls huddling in a circle, shivering, and hugging one another to stay warm. The temperature was about 48 to 50 degrees, and they wore sleeveless cotton dresses with no socks, no sweaters, no coats. In their tropical climate, anything below 65 is considerably cold to them. This year has been an unusually cold season for them at a time when they are normally used to lovely San Diego-like temperatures in the balmy 70s.

I called the little girls upstairs to my apartment. One of our visiting volunteers, Richard Curry, of Meadville, Pennsylvania, had just arrived to teach English to our staff. He had been kind enough to bring us a large hockey bag containing hoodies and sweatshirts from Mrs. P.J. Null's kindergarten class near Kansas City, Missouri. The children had collected many different sizes and colors as a Christmas service project. Along with those, the York College student volunteers from Pennsylvania



Some of the HOINA girls' show off the hoodies.

had brought other beautiful ones from Summer Smith. (Summer had been a nursing student in the first group of York College students who had come in December of 2010.) With all of these donations, we had enough hoodies and sweatshirts to outfit all HOINA's boys and girls from toddlers up to the big boys. We were short only 13 for our larger teenage boys. After we handed out what we had, I made a call to Papa Bruce who was still in the U.S. He went out to buy those last 13 and brought them to us when he arrived in mid-January, so

now all of HOINA's boys and girls have something warm to wear. The children kept thanking us again and again. They were very grateful. They wore them in the early morning until it was time for school and the sun was up and warming things a bit. Then they folded them and placed them under their pillows before going off to school. In the late afternoon as the wind picked up and temperatures again dropped, the children would don their hoodies and play cricket or swing on the swingset or just hang out with their friends. It was as if a smiley virus

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had infected our campus.

Also in mid-January, this year's York College group departed India. They were one of the best college groups we have had with three veterans in the group. A competent group of young ladies and men which included a marine, a soldier, and a sailor were all a huge blessing. None of us wanted them to leave. Having the maturity of a professor as the leader served us well again this year. Our own board member, Dr. David Fyfe, led with aplomb, and the continuity he provides year after year improves the York program.

I think we may have to call 2012 "Our Year for Vehicles." As you can see in the photo above, we have a new utility rickshaw thanks to this year's York College students' generosity. Our Jeep that we used for shopping, transporting children to the hospital, picking up visitors at the airport, and other general running was dying. Late in 2011 God



The York students blessed us with a gift with which we were able to purchase an auto-rickshaw for hauling supplies. Its gas mileage will surely be a blessing as it gets 30 km. per liter of fuel.

provided a way for us to purchase a new seven-seat mini van to replace our old pink Jeep. Now we have two new vehicles. Unfortunately, they don't transport hundreds of children! Years ago, Rotary Club International provided us with our two mini-vans, but they are needing to be replaced. Each one has seats for 15 passengers. However, our

staff have put up to 42 students in them to get everyone to school. By the time the two vans make three round-trips each, all 200 arrive at school on time each day. It is a cumbersome process, to say the least.

Recently, on a student outing, both vans broke down. A nearby school see **Winter Update** page 3



After giving a presentation on India, Letti Becker poses with the kindergarteners of Summit Christian Academy who collected hoodies and sweatshirts for the children at HOINA this past Christmas. They sure were appreciated this winter. Thanks, Students!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Account Number (on your mailing label): _____

Mail coupon to: **HOINA**
PO Box 636
Brownstown, PA 17508-0636

March 2012



- 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.
- Use this gift toward a vehicle purchase.



All donations are tax deductible.

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principal who was a friend of ours sent his bus to rescue our children and bring them home. Afterward our staff pushed and pulled to get the vans up the steep Visakhapatnam hills to find help. We worry that one day the vans will just stop running and no one will be able to repair them. How will we get the children to school then? We really need to buy two new buses.

The students and staff alike were inspired by a recent movie night when I showed them a DVD called *How Great Is Our God* by Louie Giglio. Everyone loved how he explained the science of the heavens. As we counted our blessings, we were newly motivated by how great our God is. We brainstormed on how to find a way to buy two new buses. If God could make the universe with its countless stars and planets, He

could surely find some way for us to have two new buses. If you would like to be part of God's answer to this prayer, please see the coupon above. We keep praying, hoping, and believing that the great I AM in heaven will supply us with yet one more miracle. Our boys are sure He will, and our girls fast and pray on holidays until 3 a.m. Please join them in praying. As Ann Kiemel Anderson used to say, "You wait, you watch, you'll see."

Darlene



The young men at HOINA are all smiles now that they have their warm sweatshirts, which were generously donated by a number of groups.

HOINA is a 501(c)3, tax-exempt organization with international headquarters located at:
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PO Box 87
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This newsletter is published to inform our readers of the work HOINA does among the handicapped and abandoned in India.

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Monthly Sponsor Spotlight

Malla Aswani was born March 4, 2000, and came to HOINA ten years later. Aswani is one of three children born to a father who collected empty alcohol bottles from shops and sold them to scrap shops. He was an alcoholic and physically abused his wife and children. Aswani's mother went to her parents' home to seek shelter for the children, but they refused to let them stay. She could not support three children, so she brought the children to us, and we admitted them.

Aswani likes elephants, the color blue, and a school yard game called Kabaddi. She would like to be a teacher when she is grown. She is currently studying at the RCM School in Mangalapalem. If you would like to sponsor her, please send your first monthly gift of \$30 with the coupon on page 3.

All our children love getting pictures and letters from their sponsors. If you would like to write to Aswani, you can do so at:

Malla Aswani
HOINA Campus
Kothasunkarapalem
Kothavalasa Mandal
Vizianagaram Dt. 535 183
A.P.
India

If you don't sponsor a HOINA child but have someone who would like a pen pal in your family, please write the above address asking for one in care of Mr. Anand, our House Manager. Everyone likes to get mail!

