



NEWS FROM HOINA HOMES OF THE INDIAN NATION

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HOINA Students Shine in College

*By Richard Curry
HOINA Board Member*

When I first visited HOINA some five years ago, I was there in February and March. I vowed then that I would never visit again in March. That is when India's summer begins, and the heat hovers around 100°F with high humidity. Such weather is beyond my comfort level. However, this past March I again found myself on the HOINA campus. It was hot, and I suffered.

Despite that discomfort, I was glad to be on the campus once again. The best thing about this trip

was being able to visit with our college and university students. Summer vacation begins toward the end of March and extends to the end of May. Since I usually visit there between October and February, I have the opportunity to see only our local college students.

I have known these young men and women for five years now. They were in high school when I first met them. Seeing them now with the confidence and maturity that often develops in college students warmed my heart. I know the history of a number of these young adults and think about what their lives might have been like if they had not been brought to HOINA. Some of them have no family that they

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HOINA female college students (from left to right): Surya, Sharmila, Alak, Krishnaveni, Indu and Sandhya.

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know of. They might have been sent to a government facility if they were brought to the attention of the authorities, or they might have been children of the streets. Either way, they would not likely be in college now.

So who are these young men and women who are marching toward professions and excellence through their various college programs? You may not have realized before this that HOINA attempts to provide college education for those who show academic promise. We often show pictures of the younger children, but I can't recall a newsletter dedicated to our college students. Let me introduce you to them:

THE GIRLS

- ♦ **Surya** has been at HOINA for fifteen years. She will be matriculating at university in June. She hopes to become a police officer.
- ♦ **Sharmila** has also been with us for fifteen years. She is studying computer engineering.
- ♦ **Alak** has been at HOINA for seven years. She is in her second year at Aditiya College in Vishakhapatnam.

She has studied computer technology and plans on becoming an entrepreneur.

- ♦ **Krishnaveni** is enrolled in Vagdevi College in Kothavalasa. She hopes to become a social studies teacher and she is specializing in the Telugu language. She has been at HOINA for six years.
- ♦ **Indu** has been at HOINA since 2010. She has completed two years of college and is enrolled in a university nursing program.
- ♦ **Sandhya** has been with us for fifteen years and will matriculate in June for computer engineering.
- ♦ **Hemavathi** (not pictured) is attending Allu Ramalingayya Medical College in Rajmundary. She intends to become a doctor. She has been at HOINA for six years.

THE BOYS

- ♦ **Tata Rao** has been at HOINA for ten years. He is a sophomore at V.S. Krishna Government College in Vishakhapatnam. He is working toward a national and international business degree.

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HOINA male college students (from left to right): Tata Rao, K. Venkata Naraya, Raja Babu, Gopi Raju, Kondanna and Chanikya.

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- **K. Venkata Naraya** (we all call him KVN) will be a sophomore at Bullayya College in Vishakhapatnam. He has won local and state awards for running, and he hopes one day compete for the Olympics. His goal is to work in public relations, perhaps in the sports field. He has been with us for 10 years.
- **Raja Babu** has been at HOINA for eleven years. He is attending Vagdevi College in Kothavalasa for zoology.
- **Gopi Raju** is in his senior year at Pragathi College in Kothavalasa. He came to HOINA in 1999. He is studying to be a software engineer.
- **Kondanna** is a sophomore at Adarsh College in Pendurthi. He has been at HOINA for eleven years. He hopes to become a botany professor.
- **Chanikya** came to HOINA in 2005. He is a sophomore at V.S. Krishna Government College in Vishakhapatnam where he is studying banking management.
- **John** (not pictured) has been with us for eighteen years. He is a senior at Bullayya College in Vishakhapatnam. He hopes to become a physical education director in a college or a private facility.

All of these young men and women came to HOINA before my involvement there, thus I do not know what they were like in their youth when they arrived. However, in my five years of working with the HOINA children, I have seen a number of new children come to the campus. They come because their parents are dead or dying and too ill to care for them. Some are brought by relatives, some by the police or other figures of authority. They have usually lived through tumultuous times, some for years others for only months. Some have been abused. Some have lived on the streets for a time before being rescued. Whatever their situation, they are frightened, insecure and very wary of this new environment that they have been thrust into. That fear and insecurity lasts but days. The staff and particularly the other children rush to accept and to assure. The “new kid” is not tested as in some school situations in the United States and other parts of the world; rather they are embraced—and I mean that literally. They are hugged and touched; they are being told physically that all is well.

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HOINA is a 501(c)3, tax-exempt organization with international headquarters located at:
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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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Future College Student Needs Sponsor



Don't know what to give your mom for Mother's Day? Please consider an honorary sponsorship. Gather your siblings to pool your funds to support a child who would otherwise have no hope. When you choose to donate to HOINA, we'll let your mother know that a child is thriving in India because of her legacy. If you can't afford a monthly sponsorship of \$35 per month, you can always make a one-time donation. Our office staff will alert your honorary recipient of the gift you make to HOINA.

Born on June 27, 2002, Kallepalli Surya came to us last July. His parents were married in 1997 and his father was a dhobi (laborer). Unfortunately, the father was an alcoholic and was unfaithful to his wife. He became infected with HIV and died in 2012. Surya's mother also contracted HIV. She brought Surya to HOINA and asked us to care for him while she undergoes treatment.

This cheerful child likes the color yellow and playing cricket with the other boys. He would like to be a policeman when he is grown.

Please send your gift with the completed coupon on the back page. Thank you for making a difference in a child's life.

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PO Box 636
Brownstown, PA 17508-0636



May 2015

All donations are tax deductible.

- I want to Sponsor a HOINA boy / girl (circle one). Here is my first monthly gift of \$35.
- Please use this gift of \$ _____ toward the HOINA General Fund.

- This gift of \$ _____ is in honor/memory of _____ (circle one)

(please give name and address of person): _____

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I'm sure that HOINA's college students were greeted in that way when they arrived on the HOINA campus, and I am also sure that they have greeted other arrivals in the same way. They have been secure in this wonderful environment, and because of that security they have grown into beautiful and confident young adults. They have become excellent students who will demonstrate that confidence and be successful in their professions. And as each graduate moves on from HOINA into a profession, he or she is demonstrable proof that the love and security within the HOINA family have served them very well. Indeed, where would they be now but for HOINA?

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