



NEWS FROM HOINA HOMES OF THE INDIAN NATION

PO Box 87, St. Charles, Missouri 63302 • www.hoina.org • November 2012

More Than Just Presents

*By Rachael A. Shorr
York College*

After much anticipation and about 40 hours of travel, we had finally arrived at HOINA. After being greeted with flowers from the 80 girls, we moved all our luggage into the guest house where we would stay for the next two and half weeks.

January 6th or Three Kings Day was quickly approaching which meant that 180 children would be receiving Christmas presents. When I heard that we would get to celebrate Christmas with the children, I was elated; however, before Three Kings Day, 180 presents would need to be wrapped.

Every child got a box with shampoo, soap, a comb, pencils, pens, sharpeners, talc, glue, washcloths, toothbrush, and toothpaste. The children also got one individual gift that they asked for. Many girls asked for purses, Bibles, books, and stuffed animals. The boys asked for soccer balls, watches, cars, books and stuffed animals. Many of these specialized presents would not fit into the first box, so for many of the children we would wrap two boxes.

After two days, we had finally finished wrapping all of the presents, and they looked AMAZING! All the wrapping paper was exactly the same but a variety of beautiful colors. The wrapping paper was one size fits all, so there were some gifts that needed two pieces of wrapping paper.



January 6th finally arrived with much anticipation, and we started to get ready for the celebration. The stage was set with tables surrounding it. After a few trips of carrying boxes, we got all of the presents onto those tables. All the children from both the boys' and girls' home were brought to the stage to celebrate. During the celebration, the children put on a program for us. Not only did they sing different songs in English and Telugu, but they also danced for us.

Coming to India, I had heard many stories about orphaned children and how sad and depressing the trip was going to be; however, these children were anything but sad. Although some had some hard upbringings and backgrounds, the smiles on their faces on Three Kings

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Day was enough evidence that they are some of the happiest children I have ever come in contact with.

The smiles and laughter of the children every day we were there was indescribable. One by one the children's names were called and the children came and accepted the Christmas present they were given.

With more patience than I have ever seen, the children waited as all of their brothers and sisters got their gifts before any of them opened theirs. Before it was time to open the presents, we had two birthdays to celebrate, so the children sang the four verse birthday song. (Yes, 4 verses).

After the children had cake, they went back to the girls' and boys' homes, where they each opened their gifts. The smiles on their faces said it all. It did not matter what they got in those boxes; they were just happy to have something to open.



Taking a break from painting.

One girl opened her gift and exclaimed, "I just asked for a book and Mom got me ALL of this!" The fact that she got more than she asked for, even if to us it was just toothpaste and a toothbrush, was unbelievable for her.

Celebrating the holidays with the children at HOINA has given me a whole new outlook on the holidays. These children enjoy spending time with each other with or without presents and that is more than

enough for them. I know that this year, my Christmas will not just be about opening presents. It will be about making memories, being together with my friends and family, and sharing stories with the people who mean the most to me. Understanding that a gift means more when it is well thought out and that a gift that comes from the heart is more valuable than a very expensive gift are important lessons that I learned while at HOINA.



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 page 3. As always, your generosity is such a blessing. You make HOINA's important work in India possible, and we are so deeply grateful.



Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Account Number (on your mailing label): _____

Please use this \$ _____ toward the Christmas Fund.

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

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

(please give name and address of person): _____

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



Nov 2012



All donations are tax deductible.

A Sponsor CAN Honor



As we approach the holiday season, perhaps you would like to sponsor a child in honor of that hard-to-shop-for friend or relative. The answer, of course, is "Of course!" Just note that you are sponsoring a child in their name and complete the appropriate information on the coupon above, and

we will let them know of your generosity as well as listing their name in our Honoraries List in February's newsletter.

Munjeti Joseph Sukumar was born on September 20, 2002. His parents, Mr. Ezekiel Raju and Mrs. Bhagya, were married in 1998 after which they had two sons, Joseph Sukumar and Jeevan Prasad. After Mr. Ezekiel became a Christian in 2007, his family disowned him. He moved his wife and sons to Chodavaram and worked in missions there. Unfortunately, he became ill and could no longer care for his family, so he approached HOINA to ask us to care for his sons last year. Joseph Sukumar is studying 4th standard at Master School in Madhuravada, Visakhapatnam. His favorite color is red, and his favorite animal is a giraffe. He likes to play cricket and

would like to be an engineer when he is grown.

The children love getting pictures and letters from their sponsors: If you would like to write to Joseph Sukumar his address is:

M. Joseph Sukumar (OK-388)
The HOINA Campus
Kothasunkarapalem
Balighattam B.O.
Kothavalasa Mandal
Vizianagaram- 535183
A.P. India

Remember that your gift of \$30 each month provides much more than food for your HOINA child. Your generosity provides his food, clothing, shelter, medical care, and schooling. Won't you consider joining the HOINA family in this way? 

HOINA is a 501(c)3, tax-exempt organization with international headquarters located at:
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HOINA
PO Box 636
Brownstown, PA 17508-0636

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Lancaster, PA

Thankful for a Warm Reception

A drop-in open house was held for Darlene and Bruce Large while they were in Lancaster for a HOINA Board meeting. More than 50 people attended, including students from York College (right) and many of our faithful supporters. Thank you for supporting HOINA.

