



NEWS FROM HOINA HOMES OF THE INDIAN NATION

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Lessons Learned and Shared at HOINA

By Patricia Crider, Student at York College of Pennsylvania

HOINA has been an experience unlike any other I've ever had in my 43 years of life. After arriving at HOINA, I learned that I was the oldest student to take Professor Fyfe's service learning course. During our time at HOINA, I enjoyed telling the children and staff that I was not faculty from York College but a student myself. Anand, the general manager of HOINA, came and spoke to me privately and encouraged me to make sure the children and staff knew I was a student. He said they would be inspired that I went back to school as an adult. I got a laugh out of everyone's faces when I told them my age and that I am a senior in college, graduating in the spring. They really found it funny when I told them I

am older than my professor, David Anna. (*Anna* means brother in Telugu.)

While I'll remember all of the children fondly, one particular HOINA student sticks out in my mind. His name is Richard, and he and I became good friends during my short visit to HOINA. My major in college is Professional Writing or in India, Journalism. My minors are Religious Studies and Photography. Richard has a serious interest in photography, and I was happy to allow him the use of my camera. During craft time I was so busy assisting the children that I was grateful when Richard grabbed my



Patricia Crider and Richard

camera and photographed the experience for me. On a few other occasions, I trusted Richard with my camera and was pleasantly surprised at the candid shots he took that I most likely would have never had the opportunity to capture myself. I promised Richard I would print some photos once I came home and mail them to him to give out to the children as mementos of York College's visit to HOINA.

Another fond memory I will always have of Richard is the evening he interpreted the story of David and Goliath for me during the boy's prayer meeting. As I was telling the story, I got into character and even referred

Lessons Learned

continued from page 1

to David's winding up of his sling shot much like how a cricket bowler winds up his pitch. Richard interpreted as I played up the story to keep the interest of the young boys, and I'm sure he was laughing with me, not at me! His sense of humor and intelligence will take him far in college and in life, no matter what career he pursues.

I understand that in India it would be difficult for someone who has passed the age of what is considered to be a typical student to return to study later in life. I feel blessed that I have had the opportunity to do so and begin a new career. If I have learned nothing else in life, I have learned you are never too old to take in new information and grow from it. The experience at HOINA has done that for me. The children and the Christian values being taught to them have inspired me. While at HOINA I did an impromptu fundraiser by posting my writing on my personal website and my Facebook page, requesting donations for kitchen supplies. The response was overwhelming with so little planning or promotion.

The readers I have back in the United States donated over \$300 dollars to HOINA. I found this amazing as many of the people who responded didn't know me on a personal level, yet they were inspired by my stories and my pictures while I was in India and spending time at HOINA. During my stay I also learned the boys' cricket bat had broken, and they were playing with just one bat rather than the usual two. The funds generously donated by my friends and followers on my website were used to buy new knives, vegetable peelers, a sharpening stone, a small pressure cooker, cutting boards, kitchen shears, forks, spoons and serving spoons. They also covered the purchase of a cricket bat for the boys and to the girl's surprise, one for them, also! In addition to the bats,



HOINA boys having fun.

both the boys and girls also received two cricket balls, and they were overjoyed. Their enthusiasm was clear on our last day at HOINA when the girls broke in their new cricket bat. Had the daylight never ceased, they would have played into the wee hours of the morning.

In addition to the kitchen equipment and the cricket bats, after several chats with Papa Large, I learned that the soy milk maker had broken. Having spent only \$70 of the money raised thus far, I readily offered the remaining balance to be used towards obtaining a new boiler for the "soy cow." Surprisingly, most of what I purchased are items that we take for granted in America and that make life at HOINA better and healthier. Helping raise the money for these simple items, I feel moved to continue writing about HOINA and raising funds for items needed at the home. Where there is a need, God will provide. Six months ago, I signed up for this course not knowing there would be a long-term purpose for traveling here. That purpose has been realized, and I feel God has moved me to continue spreading the word about HOINA and helping them with receiving the funds needed to continue the amazing work for orphans and teaching the word of our Lord.

A Fabulous Mother's Day Gift to Yourself



B. Likitha

These 2 girls' parents were married in 1999. Elder sister Bonela Likitha was born on Jan 9, 2002 and Nikith was born on July 20, 2003. Their father worked as a contractor, but he was unhappy because his wife's skin was very dark and his children were girls. When his demands for more dowry from his in-laws failed, he abandoned his family. At that point, the girls' mother moved in with her brother, who was unable to make enough to provide for two families. She approached HOINA and requested admission for her two girls.

The two sisters joined HOINA's family on June 21, 2013. We have not found sponsors for them, but we would be grateful if you would consider being that providence to one or both of them. Perhaps you could round up some friends to chip in together to cover the \$30 per month for each of them. You could be the "Saving our Daughters Club." It is sad yet true, that in many parts of the world a girl-child is less celebrated than a son. Wouldn't you like to celebrate Mother's Day by contributing to these two lovely girls' care?



B. Nikith



This year's York College students with HOINA Housemother, Indiramma.

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HOINA Sponsor and Contribution Coupon

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Mail coupon to: **HOINA**
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May 2014

All donations are tax deductible.

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

Please use this gift of \$ _____ toward the
HOINA General Fund.

This gift of \$ _____ is in honor/memory of
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(please give name and address of person): _____

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Happy Mother's Day



In the Bible, the last chapter of the book of Proverbs talks about the value of a "wife of noble character." We often call her the "Proverbs 31 Woman." As I was was looking for a scripture for this newsletter, I was drawn to that chapter. I especially like what it says in verse 20, "She opens her arms to the poor and extends her hands to the needy."

Thank you for helping us by extending a hand to the needy. Whether you have children or not, you have opened your arms to the poor by supporting HOINA. We appreciate your generosity.

With thanks, Letti Becker, Editor

