



NEWS FROM HOINA HOMES OF THE INDIAN NATION

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Be the Change

By Caitlin Carmody

“Be the change you wish to see in the world,” is my favorite quote. I remember first discovering it my freshman year of college and thinking that I wanted to live like that, to be an example of goodness and hope in a world that seemed to need a lot. I thought, if you lead by example and let the light of Christ in your heart shine so brightly that it can’t be ignored, then people can’t help but notice and spur change. It is no coincidence that my favorite quote was spoken by Mahatma Gandhi because the one person I have had the honor of meeting that lives this quote to a T is Darlene Large, more fondly known as “Mom.”

For those of you who know Mom, you know that she is a whirlwind! She works 18 hour days at top speed, never resting until she gets the job done. Even then, she is already thinking about how to conquer the next item on her list. I have been here at HOINA for only one month and have seen the construction of a paved driveway begin, the construction of a new garage, the finishing touches being made on the chapel,



HOINA President Darlene Large

the foundation work for the new vocational school, the building of new storage rooms and countless other smaller yet important jobs. I never thought buying things like tools, toys, supplies, and chairs could be such an enormous task. Mom explained to me how much of an adventure a trip to the city is, but being an American, I couldn’t understand just how much of an adventure until I experienced it

firsthand. At home, errands take 30 minutes to an hour. However, our errands in India begin with an hour-long drive to Visakhapatnam (the closest big city). A combination of unforeseen difficulties will definitely happen on any given day, making it impossible to plan out any firm time schedule.

My favorite “delay” was when a young shopkeeper noticed that Mom wasn’t Indian and tried to

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Caitlin Carmody with girls in the dining hall

sell her something for a ridiculous price, as if Mom had no concept of what items were worth in India. Mom promptly retorted, “I’ve been in India longer than you’ve been alive. I know that is an unreasonable price.” I find her frankness humorous yet effective!

I not only have been here to see all of the current improvements being made to the campus, but also have been taken into HOINA’s past to see some of the other places HOINA’s impact has been felt. Mom took me on a trip with her down to Bapatla, which takes nearly a half-day to drive, to see the leprosy colony and the work with the Grandma’s Lunch program.

HOINA helped the leprosy colony become self-sufficient in the 1980s by providing many services including animals that helped feed the colony and looms to weave bags

and other accessories for sale as a source of income. Just being there in itself was incredible, but what was a real eye-opener was seeing the hands that wove the bags. The deformities that leprosy causes look as if the people should be totally debilitated. Yet, somehow, they produce these beautiful works of art that few able-bodied people could match. It was just as miraculous a place as the HOINA campus.

From there, we journeyed on to Pandurangapuram to visit the Grandma’s Lunch program. Since 2005, HOINA has been feeding older widows who were left homeless and destitute after a tsunami hit southern India. My favorite part about this program is that it came as an offshoot of the medical program. The idea was that if the villagers were well fed,

fewer would become sick. As a result, the number of visits to the medical clinic did decrease after the lunch program began. What a simple but monumental idea. Mom brought each of the ladies a new sari, wrapped like a present, which produced gleaming faces from women who don’t often get to unwrap gifts. I am a sucker for the elderly, so I really enjoyed visiting with and learning from the ladies.

When I first visited here in January, Mom had not yet arrived. While I had briefly met her in Pennsylvania, I did not learn the ins and outs of HOINA until this trip. I have had the blessing of being able to tag along with Mom for weeks now and see how much work, time, and sacrifice she has put into HOINA to make it so great.

However, my greatest lesson learned from Mom is the personification of that quote: “BE THE CHANGE.” I never thought it was possible. I have been cultured by society to think that by 22, you have to have your life plan figured out. I always knew that I wanted to be some type of change but thought that if I didn’t know what type by now, it was too late. Mom told me that she didn’t start HOINA until she was in her 30s. All of these amazing things I have seen (children’s homes, self-sufficient leprosy colonies, medical needs addressed, elderly fed and cared for, generations of families who would not have existed, lives changed) were not even started

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until she was in her 40s. That miraculous thought gives me hope and happiness to realize that you can be the change whenever and wherever you are called. Once you are called, you have to have the strength and courage to actually live what you preach and be an example at all times. Loving, caring, compassionate, understanding, and always faithful—Mom is that person.



Construction continues, albeit slowly, due to late and heavy rains.



Navya and Rhoda (house mother) at Christmas

Christmas Fund Appeal

Those of you who sponsor HOINA children love to send them gifts during the holidays. However, for the sake of our children who haven't yet been blessed with sponsors (and because overseas shipping is expensive and unreliable), we ask you to 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 the back page. As always, your generosity is such a blessing. You make HOINA's important work in India possible, and we are so deeply grateful.

Sponsorship Increase

In case you didn't see the article in our September issue, we are repeating the news that our sponsorship levels have increased. The HOINA board of directors decided that to have

sufficient funds for our work, we needed to raise the amount of our child sponsorship to \$35 per month. Food and fuel costs have skyrocketed in India. We hope this won't keep too many of you from deciding to sponsor one of our children. Please know that if you are

unable to raise your sponsorship, we will happily allow you to continue at whatever amount you can afford. If, however, you are able to give just a bit more, we would really appreciate it. Thank you so much for making a difference in the HOINA children's lives.

HOINA is a 501(c)3, tax-exempt organization with international headquarters located at:
HOINA
PO Box 87
Saint Charles, MO 63302-0087 U.S.A.
Email address: info@hoina.org

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HOINA
PO Box 636
Brownstown, PA 17508-0636 U.S.A.
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Toll-free: 877.99.HOINA (4.6462)
Email address: admin@hoina.org

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HOINA Sponsor and Contribution Coupon

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Account Number (on your mailing label): _____

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



Oct. 2014

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 Christmas Fund.
- 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): _____
(please print clearly)



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Help a Young Teenager with Your Sponsorship

Doddi Poorna Chandra Rao's parents were married in 1996 after which they had two children. His father worked as a laborer in the market. Sadly, he was an alcoholic and died of liver problems in 2006. Chandra Rao's mother worked with his grandmother selling vegetables on the side of the road. When the grandmother died in 2008 in a roadside accident, Chandra Rao's mother got a job cutting vegetables in a hotel. Unfortunately, she could not make enough to support her children. A HOINA

trustee recommended that Chandra Rao be admitted to HOINA in 2014.

Chandra Rao's favorite color is green, an apt choice in a lush tropical nation like India. He likes to use his brain playing chess, and someday may use that mind to solve crimes because he would like to be a policeman when he is grown. This young man celebrated his 14th birthday on July 25 of this year.

Can you make a difference in this young man's life?

