



NEWS FROM HOINA HOMES OF THE INDIAN NATION

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Our Prayers Were Answered

*By Bhagyalakshmi
HOINA Student*

My name is Bhagyalakshmi. My mother and daddy lived in Kolkata when I was two and a half years old. Kolkata was Daddy's native place. My mother came from village India in Andhra Pradesh. I had a brother who died with jaundice when he was one month old. I was one and a half years old then.

My mother and daddy had fights daily because my mother saved money in the bank, and Daddy took the money to buy alcohol. Mother did not like all these things. One day, my father went for job in the morning 6 A.M. My mother closed the door. My mother thought, "He is not looking after our daughter and me. Why should we live?" So she poured kerosene over herself and took me from the bed and set both of us on fire.

Within a few minutes, the smoke went up and a neighbor outside saw it. He tried to open the door, but it was locked. He climbed to the roof and came inside. He opened the door, and other neighbors also came in to rescue us. They took us to hospital, but on the way there my mother died. They admitted me into hospital. Already my head was burned, and there was a big hole on the top of my head.

Both my ears melted and were fallen down. Doctors did plastic surgery. They took skin from my leg and put it on my head. After three months, they brought me home. My father used to leave me with neighbors when he went to his duties. He asked his four sisters to take care of me. They said no. Finally, one sister said, "Okay, I will look after her." After three years that auntie put me in a hostel. I was five and a half years old. They did not care for me properly, and many scabs came onto my head. They shaved my head.



Bhagyalakshmi when she arrived at HOINA.

My auntie came to the hostel and saw my condition and took me back to her home. She treated me very well. My uncle tried to get surgery for me, but he did not have the financial support. My father remarried, and he had one other daughter. My auntie gave me education up to 7th standard. Then my uncle died. It became very hard to survive. Then another uncle found HOINA because his daughter worked in a school in the HOINA town. After this, I came to HOINA. I was then 13 years old.

It was so scary. When I first came, I did not know anyone. That first day, many children came to me and joined with me happily and then I was so happy. They treated me very well. When Mom (Mrs. Darlene Large)

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saw me, she hugged me like her own daughter. Then I remembered the hugs of my mother. From that day onwards Mom is trying to do surgery for me. I felt very happy.

After I came to HOINA home, I came to know the real God, Jesus. Every day I pray to God for surgery. I am thankful to Elsie (granddaughter to Mom,) who shared about me in her class and one of her friends told her to check the internet. Then Letti Auntie (Elsie's Mom) helped her to check, and they found the doctors for me in Hyderabad, who could make me prosthetic ears.

Now without surgery, I am having ears. I came from the doctors in Hyderabad and shocked my friends, HOINA staff, and my teacher. Teacher says, "Who is this new girl?" Morning I got up. I went to see my face in the mirror. I was very much surprised and happy. I am like this because of God, Mom and Mom's family, and two very good doctors with big hearts. Dr. Deepa Raizada spent lots of time with me every day. I never expected such kindness and help to me. I am thankful to our Mom and Anand Brother [HOINA's Manager], and house-mother Indiramma who are with me and helped me.



Beautiful Bhagyalakshmi



Bhagyalakshmi with the doctors who performed the surgery—Dr. Kuldeep Raizada and Dr. Deepa Raizada.

*by Darlene Large
HOINA President*

It has been an interesting trip this time. We are thrilled about Bhagyalakshmi. This has been a miracle for her and for all of us. Your prayers have helped so much. Thank you.

This experience has changed a life dramatically. Her personality is so different. She used to hide from everyone, but now I see a happy, smiling face every day. It is so fantastic, and so encouraging. Rajiv Gandhi was so right when he said to me once, "The road you have chosen, Madam, is a noble one and a difficult one. Promise me that you will never, never ever give up." I nearly did give up. Thanks, Els, for keeping me on the right path. Even old ladies can learn from the younger ladies that miracles still happen in 2013.

Darlene

Congrats I. Ramesh

HOINA's own I. Ramesh proudly displays the certificates he was awarded last school year from the Government of Andhra Pradesh - Dept. of School Education in their Science Exhibition. His project entitled, "Retaining the Water Levels in Dry Lands" earned him special recognition from the Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research [INSPIRE], sponsored by the Dept. of Science & Technology, New Delhi.



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Consider Group Sponsorship



Malla Revath Mani Sankar

Maybe you'd like to suggest to your club or class this fall that you take on a HOINA sponsorship as a service project this school year. We are always receiving new children and appreciate your help in caring for them. HOINA wouldn't exist without our loyal donors. Thank you!

Malla Revath Mani Sankar was born on July 8, 2004. His father was an alcoholic who accused his wife of being with other men. He poisoned her and then refused to take responsibility for his son. His mother's friend Esther took Revanth Mani Sankar in but could not make enough to care for him, so she approached HOINA.

This young man is studying in fourth grade. He likes monkeys and playing on the swingset. Someday, he'd like to be a teacher.

Your donation of \$30 per month will provide a HOINA girl or boy with food, clothing, housing, medical care, and school fees. You may complete the coupon on the back page and return it to our office with your first monthly gift to get the process started. Please know that you

are always welcome to sponsor a child in honor of someone else. If you choose to do that, we'll list their name(s) in our semi-annual memorial listing and send them a letter to alert them to your gift. (Please don't forget to give us their contact information when you return your coupon.) HOINA wouldn't exist without our loyal donors. Thank you!

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September 2013

- I want to Sponsor a HOINA boy / girl (*circle one*).
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“What a Beautiful Girl”

By Pastor Anand, General Manager, HOINA

I want to share a great experience recently that happened in Hyderabad. Our Mom, (Darlene Large) and our HOINA housemother Indiramma were in Hyderabad to look after Bhagyalakshmi's ear fixing process in the hospital. When Bhagyalakshmi was a small child she was burned badly and lost both her ears. Everyone who saw her stared at her because she doesn't have ears and was scarred on her head. The doctors worked very hard to fix her ears. I thought, "How will it turn out?" After two weeks the doctor called me inside his lab and showed me Bhagyalakshmi with TWO ears! I was amazed, and I

could not believe that she would turn into such a beautiful girl with both ears and a wig on her head. Everyone who sees her now cannot help but think, what a beautiful girl! I thank God for His miracles and thank God that Elsie did not give up when the doctors in India told her grandmother, Darlene Large, "Give up, Madam. There is no help for this girl in India." However, Drs. Raizada of Hyderabad, both husband and wife, made this possible. We give them special thanks as they did it free of cost. We pray a special blessing on them.

Love to you all. Thank you for your wonderful prayers. *[Read Bhagyalakshmi's story on page 1.]*