



NEWS FROM HOINA HOMES OF THE INDIAN NATION

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

HOINA Girls Choose Angel of the Year

By Liana Kopp
York College Student

My first interaction with Suriya occurred almost halfway through our three weeks at HOINA. Jokingly, she bumped into me one morning as I walked out of the office to go to breakfast. I recognized her from prayer and play time but knew very little about her. For the rest of the day, she smiled or made silly faces at me every time we were in the same room. From then on I could count on her to make me smile whenever I saw her. Although she didn't talk to me much, she communicated in other ways. It was primarily through making those silly faces, holding my hand, resting her head on my shoulder, or even just making peanut butter crackers at night in case I was hungry that our relationship grew.

When the rest of my group left to go to Agra and I remained at HOINA, it was Suriya who was most concerned about making me comfortable. Both nights I was alone, she tried to convince me to sleep in the office or the prayer room so that I wouldn't be scared walking back to the guest house in the dark to sleep. The second night she even went so far as to bring a pillow to the prayer room for me so I wouldn't be alone. Little gestures like that were a constant reminder of what a caring, wonderful person she is.

After getting to know Suriya, I met her older sister Sandya. During one of my final days at the hostel, Mom asked me to be the game room supervisor. This job requires vigilance to make sure that the kids don't take the toys back to their rooms and that everything is cleaned up when they are finished playing. The older girls decided that having 80 kids running in and out would be chaos, so they told every girl under the age of ten to go play elsewhere. I didn't complain; I just decided I would do a game room session with the younger girls that



Liana with Sandya

afternoon instead. When Sandya saw the sad faces of the little girls standing outside the door watching the older girls play, she wouldn't have it. She opened the door to the dismay of the kids inside and the cheers of about 30 younger girls who then came rushing in. Even while panicking about the number of people and toys I was responsible for keeping track of, I was impressed by Sandya's concern for the younger kids.

I wasn't alone in recognizing her thoughtfulness and kindness either. During our final ceremony she received the

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Angel of the Year

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Angel of the Year Award which goes to the girl who has been the most helpful and responsible throughout the year. To win this award you must be nominated by the staff and then voted for by the majority of the 80 girls. While all the girls who were nominated deserved recognition, I was very proud of Sandya for winning.

During my last full day with Mom, I learned the story of why Sandya and Suriya were at HOINA. Their father was an abusive man, and when Suriya was just a baby the girls' mother killed herself. The three little girls were the ones who found their mother. The sisters ended up at HOINA, but the tragedy they had already faced was enough to last a lifetime.

I still have trouble reconciling the images of that story with the two beautiful, kind girls I came to know. It seems so unfair that they should have had to face those struggles as such little kids. And I know that if it weren't for



Suriya dancing during the final ceremony.

HOINA's role in their lives neither of these girls would have had any hope of achieving what they have. Their success is possible because of the stable home, loving family, and chance at a better future that HOINA has provided. 🙏

Remembrances January-June

Thank you to the many donors who chose to give memorial and honorary gifts in the first half of 2012. When requesting a gift to be listed in someone's memory or honor, please include the name and address of the individual or family so we can send them an acknowledgment.

In Honor of

Jill M. Bashore Jimenez, Esq.
Amy Mowbray
Betty S. Judy
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Wayne Olson

In Memory of

Sampath Ranji
Susan Nuckols
Margaret Johnson (2)
Jasmine Jimenez (2)
Helen Gianfermi
Ernest Fedorka
Walter & Iva Metz
Salome Gutierrez
Dr. Ruth Myers
Sarah Bright
Mike Mohler

Save the Date!

HOINA President Darlene Large and her husband, Bruce, are planning to visit the East Coast when she returns from India this fall.

We will have a drop-in/open house-type event at Grandview United Methodist Church, 888 Pleasure Rd, Lancaster PA 17601 on Saturday, September 29, 2012, from 4-7 p.m. Darlene will make a presentation at 5 p.m. Light refreshments will be served.

We are asking everyone to purchase tickets beforehand so we have a headcount. The cost is \$5/person, and tickets can be purchased by sending your payment to the HOINA Office, P.O. Box 636, Brownstown, PA 17508-0636.

Darlene and Bruce are hoping to see as many of you as possible! Order your tickets today by returning the coupon on page 3.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Account Number (on your mailing label): _____

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



Summer 2012



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

Please send me _____ tickets to attend the Sept. 29 Open House.

Use this gift toward a vehicle purchase or wherever it's needed most. 

This gift of \$ _____ is in honor or memory of
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All donations are tax deductible.

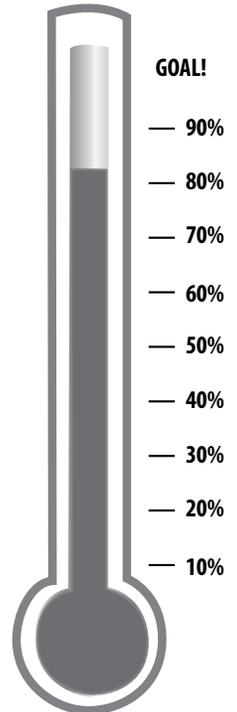
Our Vans Runneth Over



By Bruce Large

Many of you, our faithful readers, know the dire situation of HOINA's current vans as written by my wife, Darlene, in March. These vans were purchased over 10 years ago and were donated by Rotary Clubs of Lancaster, Pennsylvania and Chennai, India. The vans have served us well but are now at the end of their useful lives. One or the other of the two vans is in the repair shop on an almost weekly basis. Both of the old vans were purchased when we had many fewer children to care for. Now it is common practice to "stuff" over 40 children into a 15-passenger van, an unsafe condition at best. To make it worse, it has to be done many times a day in order to transport all of the children to and from their respective schools.

A recent quote on the price of a 45-passenger bus was for \$29,000 USD. A bargain price by our U.S. standards, but a lot for a small organization like HOINA. As of this writing we have raised slightly over \$23,500. Our heartfelt thanks go to all who have so generously contributed. It is now only a short way until we reach the top of our "thermometer"



and the children can board our first bus. Ultimately, we really need two buses, but one at a time is a huge help. Your loving care and generosity will not be forgotten. 

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

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Monthly Sponsor Spotlight

Moram Neelima was born on November 30, 2000. Neelima's parents were married in 1996. Her father worked in an electrical shop, and her mother was a housewife. Neelima was born in 2000. Five years later her parents began doing missionary work in the tribal area of West Godavari in the State of Andhra Pradesh. Unfortunately, her father became infected with dengue fever and jaundice and died in December 2010. Her mother needed to work, leaving her young daughter home alone. A neighbor approached HOINA and asked us to care for Neelima, six months after her father passed away.

Neelima's favorite animal is a lion. Her favorite color is pink. She is studying in 7th grade at the government school in Bhimavaram and would like to be a pastor when she is grown.

If you would like to support Neelima while she grows into young womanhood at HOINA, please return the coupon on page 3 with your first monthly gift of \$30.

