



HOINA
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NEWS FROM
HOINA
HOMES OF THE INDIAN NATION

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Sweety and her sister need sponsors



J. Sweety

In lieu of a Christmas present this year, you could consider sponsoring a child in someone else's name. How about one of these girls?

Two sister, J. Sweety and J. Betsheeba Vennila, came to HOINA in March of 2007.

J. Sweety is six years old.

J. Betsheeba Vennila is eight. Their parents were married in 1999. They had three children; Sweety was the middle child, Betsheeba Vennila was the oldest. Their father worked as a guide for tourists. Unfortunately, he was not faithful to his wife and left her without any support.

Notecards for Sale

In an effort to promote HOINA and educate people on the work we do, we are selling batik note cards created by boys at HOINA. One of the batik prints is pictured to the right (the notecards are in color). The front features an original batik, and the back provides a short description of HOINA and the work we do. We are selling them in sets of 8 for \$10 (includes shipping).

These cards make wonderful Christmas cards or thank you notes. To place an order, use the coupon on page 3. Thanks for your support.

She finally decided to return to her parents, but only took her third child, a son, along with her. She left Sweety and Betsheeba Vennila with her husband's family. The family was unable to give good care to the girls and through a friend, who knew about HOINA, asked that the girls be admitted to our home.

These adorable sisters love to dance and are described as a smiling, playful girls. Both girls would like to become nurses when they are grown.

See the coupon on page 3 to become a sponsor.



J. Betsheeba Vennila



Education in India

Being "useful to others"

By June Heller, HOINA Board Member
with Ramudu, HOINA Graduate

September 7th found me on an airplane again, bound for India. This was to be my third trip in the past two years. I had an extra suitcase filled with notebook paper, school pencils, colored pencils, notebooks, journals and tablets (in addition to the 4 dozen cloth diapers Mom always asks me to bring). I had a list of jobs Amy wanted me to do. I would take pictures, help the children write cards for their sponsors, update children's histories, review financial records, and research information for future projects. I also went with a personal list of goals; these were focused on the education of the children. Of particular interest and concern was the progress the students were showing in their oral and written English skills.

Some of the HOINA children attend private English medium schools, where their subjects are taught in English. Others attend government schools, where they receive one class in English daily. Their other subjects are taught in the state language, either Tamil or Telegu. On my previous trips, I had learned how difficult it is to find quality teachers of oral English. The headmaster of a private school our girls attend explained that English teachers with above-average pronunciation skills are in great demand and receive the highest salaries. Even though this was a private English medium school, he did not have the funds to employ highly skilled teachers.

At the Boys' Home we are fortunate to have a teacher on staff who has worked diligently to develop his English skills. On my second trip last year I had



Ramudu teaches at the Boys' Home

taken several English language CD programs for him; Ramudu used these to help instruct the boys. I was impressed with their progress in learning English. He also has been working with the staff to further develop their English speaking skills.

Ramudu has been on staff as the teacher for the past five years. However, he first entered HOINA as a child in 1989. I asked Ramudu to write his story for me and would like to share with you what he has written:

HOINA gives a good education to become a complete man in society. Some of the boys have become Indian soldiers and some, teachers and lecturers. From that group I am one of the men who succeeded and became a teacher and am now working on this campus [at the Boys' Hostel].

My parents were illiterate. I joined in HOINA in 1989, and then Mom [Darlene] gave me clothes and books and toys to play. When I was studying in the 6th class [grade], Mom taught me about Christ and took me to the church

Education

Continued from page 1

every Sunday. (I don't know my age then because my parents were not educated to remember that date.) From that time onwards, I agreed that Christ is my life Savior and my God. Actually, my family was a Christian family, but my father and mother did not teach about Christ to me. Each summer in my church they conducted a Bible course teaching about Christ and conducting some games like Bible quizzes and Bible verses.

My grades were good in school, earning me awards. During those years I learned good gardening and painting and drawing, also. Every evening and morning the boys had to do planting and watering. I planted paddy rice and vegetables after I came out from the Boys' Hostel, where I learned all these things. I obeyed my elders and the staff. They gave good encouragement to me in learning all these things. When I went to my home I used all these works to run my family, because my father had left. While I was at my home I studied 10+1 and 10+2 [like our junior college].

When I was studying 10+2, my mother got abdominal pain. The doctor told me that she needs to have an operation which costs 10,000 rupees. One side (of my life) was my studies, and the other side was working to earn money for the operation and food. Finally, I decided to stop my education. Then I went to Mom and told to her about my situation and what I was suffering. Mom gave me 4000 rupees. For more money I begged from my relatives. My grandmother gave me 3000 rupees. With 7000 rupees my mother got the operation. I earned money by working for the hospital rent and medicine and food. The doctor reduced the room rent by the grace of God according to my prayers. Again I began my education and passed 10+2. I studied (with the help) of donations. I have one elder sister who is mentally disabled. Till this time she didn't have marriage. I found going to class and going to work and running my family very difficult.

I wrote a letter to Mom after I finished my graduation and had enough knowledge to teach the children. I wanted to study Bachelor of Education while earning money to run my family. So, Mom gave me a job as a tutor. To enter



college, I had to write an entrance exam. My results on that test earned me a free seat in college. The government had to pay my tuition fees. [India is so populated that they have a literal number of "seats" available to incoming college students. Some pass the entrance exam and then have to wait to enter until the college has room for them.] I completed my B. Ed. and student teaching and am now working as a

teacher in this HOINA campus.

I am a Christian. I learned one thing from Mom when my mother needed an operation. Mom is helping all the boys and girls with their studies. I am also to be useful to others when they need my help to my level best. That's why I promised to our general manager on Mother's Day that I will follow my darling Mom's commands and orders in my work and helping others.

With love, your son Ramudu

Please pray for Ramudu as he teaches the boys, works with their schools, and directs their homework. Pray for me that I may have the wisdom and knowledge to give him helpful support. On this trip, Ramudu pointed out to me that we could use my camera to make videos. We began by making a video of me reading *The Merchant of Venice*, a story some of the boys were studying in their high school. I returned home with more teaching manuals and the assignment of making more videos for Ramudu to use with the boys.

Pray for the education of the girls also. We have not yet been able to find a qualified English teacher for them. I asked Mom what salary it might take to attract an English teacher with good oral skills. She suggested that \$150 a month would be a competitive salary. Pray that the additional funds will be provided.

One of my final days in India I was walking across campus when I met several of the kindergarten girls. Eyes sparkling, they began to recite A-B-C to me in perfect English! That was enough reward to make me look forward to my next trip. 

Name: _____ I want to sponsor a HOINA boy / girl (circle one).
 Address: _____ Here is my first monthly gift of \$30.
 City, State, Zip: _____ Use this gift to finance HOINA's ongoing projects through the General Fund.
 Phone: _____ Please use this \$_____ toward the Christmas Fund.
 E-mail: _____ I would like to order _____ sets of notecards.
 Account Number (on your mailing label): _____ Here's my check for \$_____ made out to HOINA.

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

NOV/2008  **ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX-DEDUCTIBLE**

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 this page. And don't forget to send a holiday greeting card or photo of your family to your child or to all of our HOINA children. These greetings mean so much to them.

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

(Your Girl's Name & ID #)
 HOINA Home for Girls
 Kanada Palayam
 Tiruninravur
 Tiruvallur Dt. 602 024
 T.N.
 INDIA

(Your Boy's Name & ID #)
 HOINA Boys' Home
 Kothasunkarapalem
 Balighattam B.O.
 Kothavalasa Mandal
 Vizianagaram 535 183
 A.P.
 INDIA



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 redone and improved.
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HOINA is a 501(c)3, tax-exempt organization with international headquarters located at:

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