



# NEWS FROM HOINA HOMES OF THE INDIAN NATION

PO Box 87, St. Charles, Missouri 63302 • [www.hoina.org](http://www.hoina.org) • April 2009

## HOINA's Monumental Move

*By Darlene Large  
HOINA President*

**A**s I write this from India, I am in the midst of packing up our girls' home to move them north to our current boys' campus where there is an organic farm, better schools, and more staff to help us. You can imagine the challenges for us as we head north on the train to our new location. I ask you to remember us in your prayers in the coming months regarding the details that follow in this article.

Over the years many of our HOINA friends have visited our girls' home outside of Chennai. That property will be sold very soon. I have had some generous offers for the property as it is now part of the Chennai suburbs. Busy streets with the associated traffic have become the norm while a new airport will soon open near our property in Tiruninravur. When we built this building back in the early 1980s, we were "way" out in the country on a beautiful two-acre property surrounded by palm trees. Now, we are in the midst of urban sprawl and are quite ready to move our girls to someplace cleaner and quieter. Please pray that the details of the real estate sale will go through smoothly.



For both my staff and for me, traveling between the existing boys' and girls' homes has been difficult. Many months I made the trip weekly, and the train trip was exhausting. Our managers have traveled to Chennai every month to turn in expense and operations reports and to meet with the board. The board

members sign all the checks, and we feel it has been a good check and balance system. Once the move of the girls is complete, all business will be conducted in the Visak area. Reducing travel in this way will be much easier for everyone and will help reduce our operating costs.

You have seen photos in previous newsletters of the construction project in Andhra Pradesh State (A.P.). Our boys are prepared to move to the new building at the back of our property, and our girls will take over the existing boys' home, which sits closer to the main entrance of our land and is fully-suited

for their needs. The two homes have separate roads into our campus to more easily separate the boys and girls.

When considering an undertaking of this size, you can well imagine that not everything has gone perfectly. Moving is always a challenge. The trucks and Jeep must transport bunk beds and bedding, kitchen pots

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# HOINA's Move

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and wares, a library full of books, and the sundries associated with a houseful of girls! The girls themselves will go by train with those staff members who are also making the move.

However, not all of our girls will relocate to A.P. In some cases, we took a girl in because she had only a single surviving parent, and now that parent has remarried and is able to care for his or her child again. The orphaned children will go north with us. Of the remaining girls, we contacted any existing family members only to discover that some were hesitant for their girls to make the move. Many of these girls have never left their immediate village area, except to go into the city of Chennai for a doctor's appointment or on a HOINA field trip. Their families are poor villagers who do not have the funds necessary to visit their girls when they are so far away. The village in A.P. where we are moving the girls is a good 400-500 miles away from our existing girls' home. Traveling there is not only costly but also time-consuming. The trip by train takes 15 or more hours each way. Most families cannot afford that time or money for visits to see the girls or to send for them to visit on holidays.

Some families are concerned about their children learning A.P.'s Telegu language. To help you understand how complicated this move is for them, let me put it this way: Imagine people in New York State speaking Italian, while people in New Jersey are speaking Hungarian, and those in Pennsylvania are speaking German. Meanwhile, Virginians speak Chinese; those in



Moving day at HOINA

Ohio speak Spanish; folks in Michigan speak Swahili; and those in Delaware, Arabic. Now multiply that on and on. That is a picture of India. While a national language, Hindi, exists and while many people do speak it or English, many less-educated speak only their state language. Each state has a different one.

In preparation for this move, we have been giving Telegu language instruction to the girls this year. Additionally, most of our children go to English medium schools, which means their subjects are taught to them in English, not the local language. We are confident that making the transition to a new English medium school will not be too difficult as their classes will still be delivered in English. Fortunately for all, most of our staff in A.P. are bilingual, speaking English and Telegu.

The location of our existing boys' home (and our new one under construction) is in a tribal area where there is great poverty. Near our 21-acre campus there, we have been helping the locals and have found their needs to be great. We are ready to welcome them into any openings we have in our new home. Needy children will find a safe home with us, and we will hire villagers to fill new staff positions at the girls' home. This particular area of A.P. has a great need for education and medical care. Our plans for the future include constructing a medical clinic and a trade/vocational school.

While this move entails significant effort, we know it will be worth it in the long run. High quality free care and education such as HOINA offers are hard to find. We can provide that thanks to you and your generosity. We give glory to God for all that He has accomplished through willing hands and hearts while we trust in His future grace to sustain the HOINA work. ♿



The Jeep, packed and ready to go!

*Darlene*

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04/09



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## Caring – A Two-Way Street

*Editor's Note: A group from Penn State University visited HOINA last summer. Please pray for this summer's students as they make their travel preparations.*

*By Lauren Herwehe*

The children made us feel welcomed and loved in so many different ways, even without trying. They did it in obvious ways, like how we all left the boys' orphanage with a pile of drawings about an inch thick, or how I went to bed with a cramped hand every night from autographing their notebooks. But it was their more subtle displays of affection that I will never forget.

When we came back to the girls' home one night after being in the city all day, they were all waiting for us in their nightgowns in the front yard, waving vigorously and yelling "Good evening, sisters!" As I got out of the van one of the girls pulled me aside and whispered secretively, "Sister! I have something for you!" As she fished around in her skirt I wondered what type of contraband item she could possibly have for me. She proceeded to pull out a small vine of wrinkled grapes and place them in my hand. Grapes are not a food that they often eat at the orphanage, as they are relatively expensive. I assume she had gotten some as a rare treat with dinner and wanted me to be able to enjoy them too. I was touched by this display of kindness.

At the boys' home they often play a hand game where they all sit in a circle with both hands out-

stretched and their right hand on top of the left hand of the boy beside them. The first boy slaps the hand of the boy next to him and says one and then that boy slaps the hand of the boy next to him and says two and so on until they reach fifty. The person whose hand gets slapped on fifty is out and the game continues until there is only one person left. The first time I played the game though, I realized that it proceeded a little differently when I was participating. I got slapped out rather early in the game and left the circle. No sooner had I sat down outside of the circle when all fifteen boys jumped up and reformed another circle around me to restart the game. This happened every time that one of us "sisters" played the game.

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

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This newsletter is published to inform our readers of the work HOINA does among the handicapped and abandoned in India.

Layout/Eberly Designs, Mount Joy, PA.  
Printing/ Freedom-Graphics, E-town, PA.

Send address changes to:

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U.S.A.  
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Toll-free: 877.99.HOINA (4.6462)  
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# Young boy needs your sponsorship



Prakash Rao


Gandreddi Prakash Rao was born Devenber 15, 1995. He was admitted to HOINA in July of 2007, when he was 11 years old.

Prakash Rao's parents were married in an arranged marriage in 1990. They both worked in the fields for a daily wage. Prakash's father had problems with his legs and could no longer work. A year later he died. His mother died on March 31, 2004 from T.B. A relative approached HOINA in July 2007, and Prakash was admitted.

Prakash is studying 8th standard in ZP High School, Donderu. He likes cricket, deer, and the color pink. He wants to be a doctor when he is older. 

## Caring – A Two-Way Street

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As I adjust back into my life at Penn State, I occasionally look at pictures from the trip just to see the children's beautiful smiling faces. As many details of our stay become a foggy memory, it becomes clearer what parts of the experience I will never forget. It is safe to say that I have never experienced such overwhelming kindness and appreciation than I received at HOINA. It is a feeling that I will not soon forget and I can only hope that I made them all feel half as loved as they made me feel. 



Shakila

Recently, HOINA President Darlene Large had her e-mail account compromised. Check our website at [www.hoina.org](http://www.hoina.org) for further updates.