

CHANGING  
CHILDREN'S  
LIVES  
FOREVER



HoltInternational  
CHILDREN'S SERVICES

ANNUAL REPORT 2013

## FROM THE PRESIDENT



# EMBRACING THE FUTURE FOR THE CHILDREN WE SERVE

Last year, Ploy came home to the Stewart family. An older child with special needs, Ploy waited for years for a family, and today, through Holt's adoption services, she has one. We rejoice when orphaned and abandoned children unite with loving families in the United States. We call these families our "Holt families." Last year, 360 children in Holt's care found homes in the United States.

While international adoption has been integral to Holt's mission for nearly 60 years, I want to share with you a different, but equally special "Holt family" story. A story that speaks to where Holt is today, and where we're headed in service of vulnerable children and families...

Maria, from the Philippines, recently graduated from college. Shortly afterward, Maria learned that she was pregnant, and her parents disowned her. Frightened, Maria prayed. Then, a miracle. Maria's professor directed her to Holt's Nazareth Home for unwed mothers. Maria learned parenting and career-building skills, and eventually made the wonderful decision to parent her baby. In December, she gave birth to a son, and reunited with her family and the baby's father. "If I didn't enter Holt's Nazareth Home, where would I be today?" writes Maria.

One Holt family joined together through international adoption. Another, kept together through Holt's family strengthening services. Both, reasons to celebrate!

In 2013, Holt provided exemplary family strengthening services, helping to keep struggling families together. We also continued construction on the Shinshicho Mother and Child Health Center in Ethiopia. Once complete, this hospital will provide quality care for a region of 250,000. Recognizing the vital importance of nutrition in child development, we continued partnering with the SPOON Foundation. Last year, Holt also helped the Philippines overcome Typhoon Haiyan. Our goal in these efforts? To help vulnerable children survive, and help struggling families thrive.

Harry Holt once said, "Every child deserves a home." We wholeheartedly agree. Moving into 2014, it will be up to us to ensure that no matter where a child finds his or her home — whether in the United States with an adoptive family or in their birth country — that we would continue to offer services that will help us fulfill our vision: A world where every child has a loving and secure home.

**Phillip Littleton** | President and CEO



## Kaden\* — Southeast Asia

Kaden is a clever, thoughtful and engaging boy waiting for a permanent family. He enjoys math and he is excited to move on to the third grade. Kaden's caregivers and teachers say he has a great memory and gets along well with other children in his care center. Kaden enjoys soccer and basketball, despite his asthma, and is excited about the possibility of being adopted. Kaden is one of many children in Holt's care who are waiting for families right now.

## Ayesha\* — India

Authorities found Ayesha abandoned shortly after she was born. She entered institutionalized care, where doctors diagnosed her with cerebral palsy. Holt helped place Ayesha in a foster home, which offered a nurturing and attentive environment where she would be able to grow and thrive. With the help of her foster parents and teachers, Ayesha has learned to walk with the help of a walker and to speak in English and Malayalam. Her foster parents say she is active, happy and healthy. Today, Ayesha is almost 18 and thanks to Holt sponsorship, she is able to remain in the loving care of her foster family.

## Eskinder\* — Ethiopia

After Eskinder's father died, his mother wasn't sure how she would provide for her children. She didn't have the money to send Eskinder to school and feared she might not be able to keep her family together. Eskinder's mother received a cow from Holt, which has helped the family become financially secure. Eskinder's mother uses the milk from the cow to provide nourishment to her children, and then she sells the surplus. When the cow reproduces, Eskinder's mother is also able to sell the calves — providing additional income for her family. Eskinder is doing well in school. Like many of the children in Holt's family strengthening programs, Eskinder's life and home are now more stable — thanks to the compassion of sponsors and donors!

\*Names changed

**“Religion that God our Father  
accepts as pure and faultless  
is this: to look after orphans  
and widows in their distress...”**

**– James 1:27**



LAST YEAR, HOLT AND  
OUR PARTNERS PROVIDED  
**81,761**  
CHILDREN  
WITH LIFE-CHANGING SERVICES

## Family Reunification

Before pursuing adoption, our partners overseas first strive to determine whether children can return to their birth families. Many homeless children have living parents or relatives whose lack of resources, not lack of love, compelled them to relinquish their child. With a little assistance, however, many families can continue caring for their children. Holt often provides temporary childcare — and, in some cases, also helps families get back on their feet. In Vietnam, for example, Holt provides families of children in orphanage care with counseling, support services and resources to generate income — helping them regain stability and ultimately reunite with their children.

## Family Strengthening

Through Holt's family strengthening programs, struggling families gain the tools and resources they need to independently provide for their children. Although support varies depending on the needs of the family, Holt's ultimate goal is always to help families achieve both self-reliance and lasting stability. Everywhere we work, Holt also targets the most vulnerable families in the community — often households headed by single mothers. Last year in Cambodia, Holt

successfully piloted six self-help/loan groups to empower single mothers with the skills and support they need to generate income for their families. In Uganda, Holt provided resources and training for 25 women to become professional tailors. Holt more than doubled the number of children we support through family strengthening services in Mongolia — many of them the children of single mothers. While in Korea, Holt expanded vocational training opportunities for women in care at six unwed mothers shelters — providing hope for new mothers and their babies.

## Foster Care

When a child enters our care overseas, Holt immediately begins working to place that child in a permanent, loving home — whether by reuniting with their birth family, or joining an adoptive one. But during the time children are in care, Holt strives to ensure they receive the loving, personal attention they need — ideally in foster families, where they are far more likely to reach critical developmental milestones and form healthy emotional attachments. Holt first pioneered foster care in Korea in 1965, and has in the years since replicated our model of attentive, affectionate care in numerous countries.



## Nutrition

Nutritional support is an essential component of Holt programs overseas. In many countries, Holt provides livestock as a nutrient-rich food source for families in our programs. When children are separated from their family, however, they often become more vulnerable to malnutrition. At Holt, we strive to do everything we can to optimize the health and nutrition of children in our care. Last year, Holt worked alongside SPOON Foundation — an organization that seeks to improve the nutrition of orphaned, fostered and adopted children — to develop a nutrition screening system and caregiver training for children in care at Holt partner organizations in Haiti and India. With funding from a generous grant through a private foundation, Holt and SPOON are now planning to implement the nutrition screening system and training program in seven countries over the next four years — starting in Vietnam and China in 2014 and expanding to Ethiopia, the Philippines and Mongolia in the ensuing years. In the Philippines, Holt also supported the launch of a supplemental feeding program for malnourished children in Quezon City.

## Medical Care

All children in the care of our partners overseas receive vaccinations and other routine medical care. Many children in Holt programs are not, however, in the direct care of our partners — but rather, in the care of their birth families. For these children, Holt takes a different approach. In Vietnam, for example, Holt provides daycare for children living in three low-income communities. While children receive nutritious meals and critical early education, their parents attend parenting education classes where they learn vital skills to prevent illness and to keep their children healthy and strong. Over the past few years, however, our most significant effort to strengthen healthcare for vulnerable children and families has occurred in southern Ethiopia — where Holt has joined the community in building a full maternal-child hospital. At the end of 2013, the hospital entered its final construction phase and an official opening ceremony is planned for 2014. Once complete, the Shinshicho Mother & Child Health Center will offer acute, quality care for a region of 250,000 people — serving many families and children who would never otherwise receive treatment.



HOLT & OUR PARTNERS PROVIDED  
**5,864**  
 CHILDREN  
 WITH FOREVER HOMES AROUND THE WORLD

## Education

Holt's educational support programs include everything from sponsorship for children to parenting classes and vocational training for parents. Last year in China, Holt sponsors provided funding for over 3,300 children to attend school. In some long-standing programs, many children are now graduating high school and college and moving on to start careers. In one community in Ethiopia with a high rate of deafness, Holt supported the opening of a special school for the deaf and has since enrolled many of the children and their families in our family strengthening program in the region. While in India, one of our legacy partners inaugurated a new childcare center in Aurangabad with plans to include a Montessori school for the children in care.

## Domestic Adoption

Circumstances sometimes make it impossible to reunite children with their birth families. For these children, we first try to place them with loving families in their birth countries. Giving children the opportunity to grow up in their birth country and culture is central to an ethical system of adoption, and we have long promoted it in the countries where we

work. Although a rare occurrence when Holt began advocacy efforts in the 1980s, domestic adoption placements in India have exceeded international placements every year since 1990. In Korea, more children join families domestically than internationally every year. While in China, Holt continues to find loving families for many children in their country of birth.

## International Adoption

In recent years, several factors have caused a gradual decline in international adoption. As economies continue to grow in countries overseas, more families are able to earn a stable income — causing fewer children to be abandoned or relinquished. At the same time, more families are adopting children domestically in countries where, for orphaned and abandoned children, international adoption was once the primary path to a permanent, loving family. While we celebrate these developments, other changes are not so positive — creating barriers between families hoping to adopt, and the children who need them. Holt remains steadfast in our mission to ensure every child has a loving and secure home, and in 2013, we continued to open new doors for finding families for children through international adoption. Last year, Holt was



selected as one of 19 agencies allowed to continue placing children from Haiti and one of three short-listed agencies to be considered for adoption licensing from Vietnam. The final two agencies selected may be announced in June or July 2014.

## Programs for Children with Special Needs

Children who are older, have special needs or are part of sibling groups often wait longer for families. Holt has for many years made extra effort to find loving homes for these children, and supported in-country programs that help them develop to their fullest potential. Last year, Holt led our third annual ambassador program for older children in the Philippines and continues to have great success finding homes for them. Of the 199 children who joined families from China last year, 197 of them have special needs. In Bangaluru, India, one of Holt's partners introduced a day care program for children with special needs. And in honor of Harry and Bertha's daughter Molly who has dedicated her life to caring for children with special needs, Holt created the Molly Holt Fund for Children with Special Needs — raising over \$180,000 for in-country programs that serve children in greatest need.

## Post Adoption Services

Holt offers a range of services to address the continuing needs of adoptees, adoptive parents and birth parents. As more families and adoptees learn about Holt's post adoption services department, more and more take advantage of services available every year. In 2013, Holt provided over 3,600 services — from counseling and assistance with birth searches to heritage tours and adoptee camps. The post adoption services blog and e-newsletter continues to reach new readers every year, and webinars on various post adoption topics were well attended in 2013. Last year, Holt's director of adoptee services also convened the first meeting of the Post Adoption Academic Advisory Committee, composed of three university professors who plan to meet quarterly to discuss current trends in research and their application to post adoption services.

OUR WORK | HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2013



LAST YEAR,  
**360**  
CHILDREN IN HOLT'S CARE  
WERE PLACED IN THE  
UNITED STATES



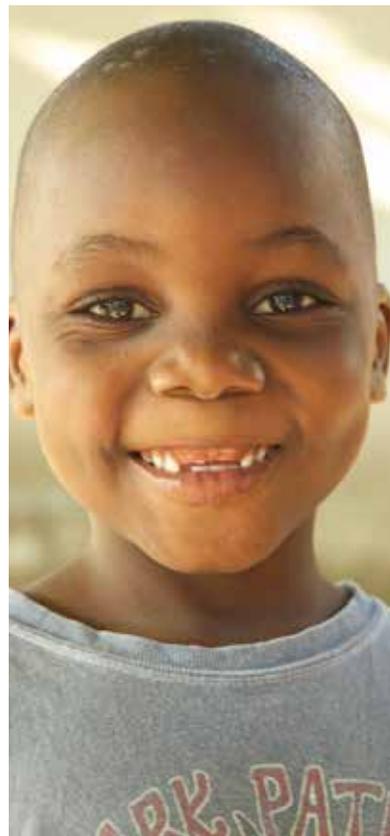
OF CHILDREN PLACED,  
**77%**  
WERE CHILDREN WITH  
**SPECIAL  
NEEDS**

FAMILY STRENGTHENING  
SERVICES HELPED

3,889

CHILDREN  
STAY IN THE LOVING CARE  
OF THEIR BIRTH FAMILIES

441  
CHILDREN  
JOINED ADOPTIVE  
FAMILIES  
IN THEIR BIRTH  
COUNTRIES





## Statement of Activity

For the year ending December 31, 2013

Sources of Support	
Sponsorship Contributions	\$8,744,605
Adoption Fees	\$6,143,455
Private Gifts	\$4,773,145
Investment Gains	\$1,303,917
Adoptee Camps & Tours	\$736,378
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$21,701,500</b>
Expenses	
Program Services	\$14,621,760
Fundraising	\$2,672,593
Administration	\$2,358,547
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$19,652,900</b>

## Statement of Position

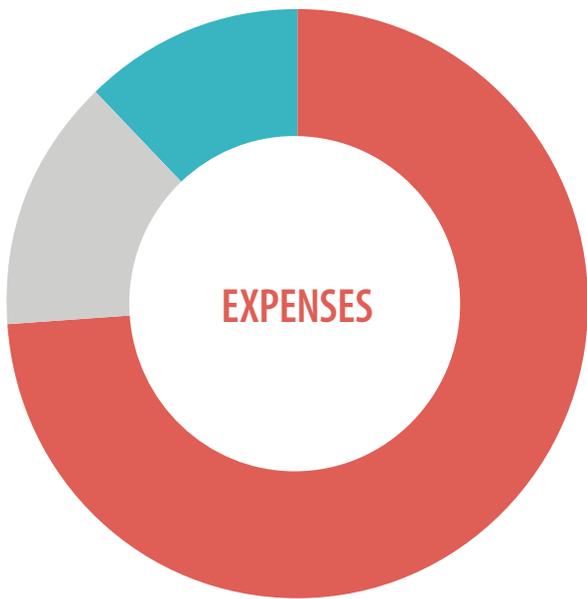
For the year ending December 31, 2013

<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$15,998,033</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$5,658,679</b>
Net Assets	
Unrestricted Net Assets	\$5,408,092
Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	\$1,817,132
Permanently Restricted Net Assets	\$3,114,130
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>\$10,339,354</b>

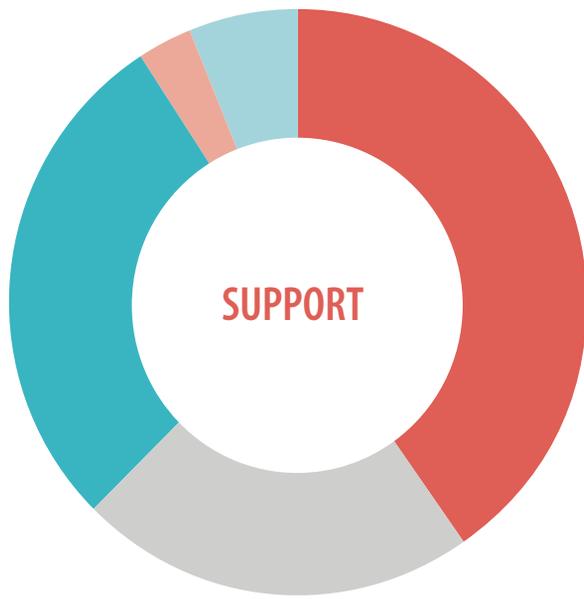
The downloadable version of our audit report is available on our website at: [holtinternational.org/annualreport](http://holtinternational.org/annualreport)



The partnership between Holt and its supporters changes children's lives. We at Holt recognize that we serve as the hands and feet of very caring and generous people. We strive to use our financial resources effectively and efficiently, and maintain an open and transparent relationship with our donors.



- Program Services
- Fundraising
- Administration



- Child Sponsorship
- Adoption Fees
- Adoptee Camp & Tour Charges
- Private Gifts
- Investment Gains

Holt undergoes an annual audit performed by an independent accounting firm. Figures stated are based upon the report of Moss Adams. A complete audit report is available and gladly provided upon request.

OUR VISION:  
A WORLD WHERE  
EVERY  
CHILD  
HAS A LOVING  
AND SECURE  
HOME

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