

Holt's model of service to children



Holt's Vision

A world where every child has a loving and secure home.

Holt's Mission

Holt International is a Christian organization committed to expressing God's compassion for children. While always upholding the highest ethical standards, we:

- Find and support permanent, loving families for children who are orphaned, abandoned or at serious risk of separation from their family
- Provide services to ensure that children will grow and develop to their fullest potential
- Lead the global community in advocating on behalf of the world's most vulnerable children



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Holt's Child-Centered Approach

We believe that every child needs and deserves a permanent, loving family. What is best for every orphaned and abandoned child is, however, as unique as every child. When considering a child's future, Holt always keeps the child's best interest at the forefront of every decision.

Holt International pioneered the modern era of international adoption, but Holt is much more than an adoption agency. We also develop and maintain programs overseas to give orphaned, abandoned and vulnerable children safe and nurturing environments in which to grow and thrive. Although our programs take many forms, they all put the welfare of children first.

Family Strengthening

Whenever possible, and if best for the child, Holt seeks to preserve the child's birth family. In many countries, we help struggling families work toward a place of self-reliance and lasting stability – efforts that ultimately prevent child abandonment, and keep families together. Holt also works to reunite children already separated from their families, and living in outside care.

Domestic Adoption

Adoption is often the best solution for children who cannot grow up with their birth families. In loving adoptive families, children find the nurturing care and sense of belonging they need to thrive. Before pursuing international adoption, Holt strives to place children through in-country – or domestic – adoption, as it allows them to grow up in the country and culture of their birth.

International Adoption

For many children, international adoption is the best route to a permanent, loving family. Since our founding in 1956, Holt has placed more than 40,000 children with families through international adoption. Today, we continue to unite children with adoptive families overseas, carefully considering each child's unique situation and needs.

Temporary Foster Care

While children wait to join permanent families, Holt strives to place them in the care of a well-trained foster family. In the loving embrace of a foster family, children receive the attentive, nurturing care they need to achieve critical developmental milestones, and form healthy emotional attachments – easing the bonding process with their adoptive families as well.

Family-Like Care

Sometimes, long-term group home placement is necessary for children who have profound medical or developmental needs. Designed for children who are unlikely to find adoptive families, group homes provide a more family-like alternative to an institution – ensuring children receive the loving care they need to reach their full potential.

Programs for Children with Special Needs

Holt has for many years made extra effort to find loving homes for children with special needs, and supported in-country programs to help them develop to their fullest potential. Our efforts on behalf of children with special needs began as early as 1961, when Harry and Bertha Holt founded the Ilsan Center in South Korea – a long-term care facility for children with medical and developmental conditions. In the years since, Holt has become a leading advocate for special needs adoption, placing hundreds of children with families each year and developing specialized services in numerous countries. The Ilsan Center has also grown world-renowned for its care of children and adults with disabilities.

Advocacy

In order to adopt eight children from South Korea in 1955, Harry and Bertha Holt had to overcome significant legal and cultural barriers. In the years since, Holt has continued their pioneering work – not only finding families for children, but also eliminating unnecessary barriers that stand between children who need homes, and families seeking to adopt them. We played a significant role in shaping the Hague Convention on Intercountry Adoption. And through ongoing advocacy efforts, Holt has helped form many of the policies surrounding the modern practice of international adoption.

Post Adoption Services

Holt recognizes that relinquishment and adoption have lifelong effects, and it is our ethical obligation to serve the tens of thousands of adoptive families we have created, and continue to create. The Post Adoption Services Department at Holt strives to provide education and support for birth parents, adoptees and adoptive parents, with services ranging from counseling and birth search assistance to annual adoptee camps and heritage tours. Many of our services are also available to non-Holt adoptees and families.

