For 40 years, Holt has worked to serve the needs of homeless and at-risk children and families in Thailand. When reuniting a child with his or her birth family is not an option, we seek for them a loving, permanent family through adoption. Through the years, Holt has placed over 800 children from Thailand with families in the United States.
Children come into care in Thailand for a variety of reasons. These include the cultural stigma against single motherhood, poverty, family illness or other family crises. Most children referred to Holt International have been relinquished by their birth mothers after they decided to make an adoption plan. Mothers can receive prenatal care — regardless of whether they choose to parent or relinquish — and can give birth at a maternity home connected with our partner, the Holt Sahathai Foundation (HSF). When children are determined legally abandoned by the Thai government, they too may be placed into HSF’s care while we seek for them a stable, loving family through adoption.

**Type of Care:** The vast majority of children we place from Thailand enter HSF’s foster care program as soon as they are relinquished — where they receive attentive, nurturing care in a family-like environment. These foster families also prepare the children very well for adoption, easing their transition into a permanent adoptive family. In some instances, we receive referrals for children in the care of government-run child care centers or group homes.

**Age:** The children available for international adoption from Thailand can vary in age from 1 to 8+ years. Most of the children are around 2-to-3 years old at the time of placement.

**Gender:** A fairly equal number of boys and girls are waiting for adoptive families. Only families with a male child in the home may request a girl. Because a gender request option is allowed, the wait to be matched with a girl may be longer than for a boy. Childless couples must be open to either gender, and families who already have a female child may request a boy.

**Common Medical Conditions:** Children waiting for adoptive families are generally healthy. However, some minor medical or special needs may be present, such as low birth weight, prematurity, mild developmental delays or poor health history of the child’s birth mother. Here are some of the common medical conditions that a child may have:

- Premature birth/low birth weight
- Neonatal jaundice
- Anemia
- Asthma
- Birth family history: birth parent substance abuse, mental illness or medical condition

**Eligibility:** Because of Thailand’s eligibility requirements, this program is a good fit for younger parents — the adoptive mother should be under the age of 40 and the adoptive father under the age of 45 at time of application — and those who have just one or no other children living in their home. However, these requirements can be flexible for families interested in a waiting child.

**Learn More:** If you are interested in learning more about Thai children waiting for families through international adoption, please contact Emily Lund at emilyl@holtinternational.org or 541.687.2202. For information about children on the waiting child photolisting, contact Kristen Henry at kristenh@holtinternational.org.