

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

April 28, 2014

Contact: Susan Soonkeum Cox
Vice President Policy & External Affairs
541-687-2202 or susanc@holtinternational.org

Holt International, Sunny Ridge Family Center Come Together in Service of Children

Eugene, OR – Two of the longest-standing adoption agencies in the U.S. — Holt International Children's Services and Sunny Ridge Family Center — have decided to join forces in their efforts to find loving adoptive families for children in both the U.S. and overseas.

Holt International will assume management of Sunny Ridge's operations and will operate as Holt-Sunny Ridge Children's Services in Illinois, a branch office to Holt's headquarters in Eugene, Oregon. Holt has branch offices that provide direct services to families living in several states from California to New Jersey, and looks forward to expanding these services to families in Illinois.

Although Holt International is historically an international placement agency, Sunny Ridge Family Center has provided both domestic and international adoption services since 1981. Holt plans to continue domestic placements in Illinois, and is excited to begin a new chapter finding loving homes for children in the U.S. as Holt-Sunny Ridge Children's Services.

"Holt is committed to continuing the long tradition of programs and services provided by Sunny Ridge and intends to make the merger as seamless and non-disruptive as possible," says Phil Littleton, Holt president and CEO. "We believe this is an opportunity to bring the best of two organizations together, and we look forward to making that a reality in the coming weeks and months."

This merger comes in response to declining international adoption placements and increasingly complex global adoption practices, and follows several months of collaboration between the two organizations. "We considered a number of organizations and ultimately determined the most appropriate partner was Holt International," says Brian Ytterberg, board chair of Sunny Ridge Family Center.

The new director of Holt-Sunny Ridge Children's Services will be Amy Trotter, who was adopted from Vietnam through Holt. "This is a natural transition for me," Trotter says. "I know of the good work that Holt has provided for nearly 60 years and I am excited about being the bridge between these two outstanding organizations."

Founded in 1956, Holt International is dedicated to finding and supporting permanent, loving families for orphaned, abandoned and vulnerable children. Holt is recognized as a leader in child welfare and permanency planning, providing services and advocating for the best interest of children while always upholding the highest ethical practices. Visit www.holtinternational.org to learn more.