

## **Intercountry Adoption**

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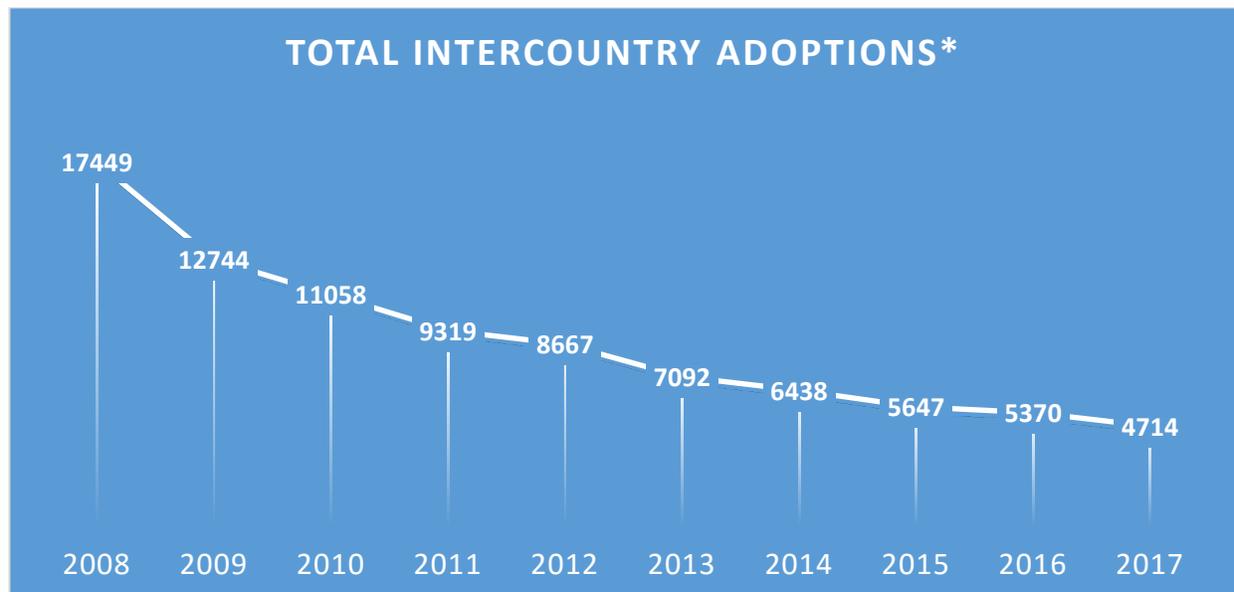
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1. **What are the factors that lead WACAP's Board of Directors and CEO to make this decision?** We considered several factors as we made the decision to merge with Holt International Children's Services, including the following data and trends: due to a wide array of reasons, international adoptions have declined by almost 80% in the past decade\*. Much of this was due to celebratory factors, including a decline in corruption and increased efforts in areas of family preservation, reunification, and domestic adoption in many countries. Some, however, was in response to unfortunate circumstances, including several countries closing to international adoption, changing family eligibility rules and process guidelines in various countries, as well as increased costs for adoption in response to ever-changing regulatory oversight and the political climate in the United States.

WACAP faced two options: continue international programs for a very short period and then close altogether, or identify a limited path forward in order to continue our work to help place children in families and work to keep them strong.

Ultimately, WACAP made the decision to join forces with another organization, in order to more offer services more efficiently, expand our reach, and accomplish our shared mission. Together, WACAP and Holt International Children's Services will continue international adoptions and grow domestic programs as well. Under the Holt umbrella, we can transform the lives of vulnerable children, no matter where they live.



Source: [Department of State](#)

2. **What action is WACAP taking to ensure that families currently in the midst of an international adoption, from home study through post placement reporting, can successfully continue forward in their journey?** We acknowledge that this is difficult for families currently in the process of pursuing an adoption. The vast majority of families can transition seamlessly to the Holt organization within the scope of this merger, in some cases working with the same staff you have already come to know at WACAP. WACAP staff are reaching out to each WACAP family with individualized information, regardless of where you are in this process: from inquiry, to filing post placement reports.
3. **What's next for WACAP?** Together with Holt, we stand ready to provide a seamless transition for families to continue their adoption journey. We are excited to join a terrific organization focused not solely on Intercountry Adoption, but also on serving vulnerable children through family preservation, reunification when possible, and through a variety of domestic programs. We are also thrilled to continue our expansion of

services in Western Washington to recruit and support families willing to provide foster care for children as well as those willing to adopt from the foster care system.

4. **What happens if my family does not wish to participate in this Holt International and WACAP merger?** At any time during an adoption a family may choose to withdraw from either Holt International or WACAP services and transfer to another agency. Families should be aware that transferring to a new agency may cause slight delays to the adoption process but both Holt International and WACAP staff will work hard to eliminate or minimize any delays. As part of the standard process of transferring to a new agency WACAP will review a family's file to determine if any fees paid are eligible for refund. Once WACAP receives a formal Release of Information (ROI) documenting which agency a family plans to transfer to WACAP staff will work to refund any unused fees and mail any necessary documents to the new agency within 30 days of receiving the signed and dated ROI.
5. **I recently submitted an application for a specific international adoption program. What happens to that application?** Your application will be processed through the newly merged Holt organization, and you will continue to process through the training and home study process. Any applicant families who choose to transition to another agency will receive a refund and information about other options for completing your home study and ultimate adoption.
6. **I am currently in the home study process. Will I be able to continue with my adoption plans?** The answer in most cases is “yes,” you can continue seamlessly with your adoption plans. Whether your homestudy is being written by WACAP or by another homestudy provider in almost all cases you should be able to finish up your report and move into one of Holt’s intercountry adoption program. While WACAP is notifying all homestudy agencies of this merger, you may also want to be in touch with your provider to ensure there is not gap in service. Please feel free to be in touch with WACAP Homestudy Processing Coordinators to discuss your individual case.

Unfortunately, if you are in process of completing a homestudy for an adoption through India you will need to have the homestudy finalized by March 31<sup>st</sup>; otherwise you will need to identify a new homestudy provider to complete your study. All families adopting through India, even those whose homestudies are finalized by March 31<sup>st</sup> will need to identify a new homestudy/post placement provider for the remainder of their process. Once you have identified a new agency we are happy to provide them with any documentation you have already submitted to WACAP in hopes that it will assist in reducing any further delays.

7. **Will my WACAP home study still be valid and satisfy requirements for pursuing adoption through the newly merged Holt organization?**

The answer in most cases is “yes,” you can continue seamlessly with your adoption plans. Holt International is a Hague accredited agency with active adoption programs in China, Korea, Vietnam, Colombia, Thailand, Haiti, The Philippines, and will be assuming WACAP’s programs of Bulgaria and Taiwan. Once your file has been transferred to Holt you will be asked to complete an Adoption Services Agreement and Family Service Plan for Holt and will then follow their adoption process. Unfortunately, for those hoping to adopt from India, you will be required to identify a new placing agency as well as a new homestudy/post placement agency (if you are working with WACAP) as Holt International is no longer providing these services for families adopting from India.

8. **My homestudy is being written in a state where Holt is not currently licensed (Alaska, Connecticut, New York, Wisconsin) how will this affect my process?**

While Holt is not currently licensed in those states they are actively working with each individual state’s licenser to obtain them. We are confident that Holt will acquire these state licenses soon so that you can

continue with your adoption process. In most cases you will continue working with your assigned social worker to complete your homestudy as well as for any future required post placement reports.

**9. I am only working with WACAP for my homestudy/post placement services. Will Holt continue to assist me?**

Yes, for those of you who were using WACAP solely for your homestudy/post placement services and are working with a different placing agency you will want to inform your agency that Holt will continue with your homestudy/ post placement services. In most cases you will continue working with your assigned social worker to either complete your homestudy or for any future post placement reports.

**10. I have a completed home study and am preparing documents for my dossier. What happens to our adoption?**

The documents that you gather for your dossier generally should not change. However on a country by country basis one or two additional documents may be necessary. Your case manager will be in contact with you if any additional documentation is needed.

**11. My dossier has been submitted, and I am waiting to be matched. How does this decision impact my case?**

Largely families whose dossiers have been submitted will not need to provide any additional paperwork. On a country by country basis one or two additional documents may be necessary but your case manager will be in contact with you if any additional documentation is needed.

**12. I am currently matched with a child. What does this decision mean for my family?** Families who have formally accepted the match of a child will have little or no change in their process. Depending on the country you are adopting from and the stage in the process you are in it's possible that you could have a new case manager. In some cases, additional Child Specific Training may also be requested. Holt International and WACAP staff will be working hard to make sure this change is managed in a way to keep your adoption moving smoothly.

**13. I am adopting a child WACAP has provided Promise Child Grant support for. Will the WACAP grant still be available when WACAP becomes Holt International?**

Because WACAP and Holt International are merging the grant is still available for families who have already submitted their application to WACAP. For families who have not yet applied the Grant amounts may change for specific children in the coming months while WACAP and Holt merge their grant programs.

**14. Has WACAP advised overseas colleagues of their plan?** WACAP has reached out to advise all current and past colleagues/orphanages. In many instances WACAP has incorporated their feedback into our transition planning. Many of our overseas colleagues already work with Holt International or are familiar with Holt International's decades of excellent service to children and families.

**15. Whom should I contact if I have questions about my post-placement requirements?** Post Placement processing is program specific at Holt International. Below you will find contact information per program (please note that all family-written reports are processed by one individual listed below).

- Thailand – Jennifer Nelson – [jennifern@holtinternational.org](mailto:jennifern@holtinternational.org)
- Korea – Korea team – [koreapostplacement@holtinternational.org](mailto:koreapostplacement@holtinternational.org)
- China\*/Taiwan – Shirley Blazer – [shirleyb@holtinternational.org](mailto:shirleyb@holtinternational.org)
- Bulgaria/Ethiopia/Haiti – Amanda Colonia – [amandac@holtinternational.org](mailto:amandac@holtinternational.org)
- \*All family reports, except for China, please contact Pame Chow [pamec@holtinternational.org](mailto:pamec@holtinternational.org)

**16. When will Holt International begin processing my reports?** Holt will assume this responsibility on April 1, 2019.

**17. Will I have to change post-placement agencies and/or social workers?** You will not need to change agencies. We expect that you will continue working with your assigned social worker to complete any future post placement reporting requirements. If any changes were necessary, you will be informed.

18. **Will Holt International require me to pay any additional fees?** Holt International will not require any additional fees as related to post placed reporting. However, you may incur fees related to other post adoption services such as archived file retrieval.
19. **If I have challenges with my child(ren), who can I contact for support and resources?** You can reach out to Sunday Silver, MA via email at - [sundays@holtinternational.org](mailto:sundays@holtinternational.org) You can also complete [this form](#) to request support services.
20. **Who should I contact if I begin to consider dissolution?** Holt International helps support struggling families and will be able to assist families identify a subsequent adoptive family for your child if you decided to dissolve. Additionally, Holt will provide advice and offer referrals to local professionals, adoption attorneys, and other adoption service providers. Please reach out to [Celeste Snodgrass, LCSW-PIP](#) Holt International's Director of Clinical Services or complete [this form](#) to request assistance.
21. **Who can I contact for assistance with re-finalization or access to my file?** You can reach out to Debby Hanson via email at [debbyh@holtinternational.org](mailto:debbyh@holtinternational.org)
22. **Who will be responsible for helping families find info about locating their child(ren)'s birth family or visiting their former orphanage/foster family?** Debby Hanson is also responsible for providing Search & Reunion assistance. You can reach her via email at - [debbyh@holtinternational.org](mailto:debbyh@holtinternational.org)
23. **Why should I continue completing my post-placement reports after WACAP and Holt International merge?** Post placement reports are vital to the ongoing future of international adoption. They help countries of origin, and often birth families, have peace of mind knowing that their children are safe, healthy and supported by a committed parent, or parents, who love them dearly. A family's compliance with the post placement schedule to which you agreed at the time of referral can often impact any future adoption by your family, so it is very important to continue submitting these reports. See more information from WACAP [here](#) and read one family's experience [here](#).
24. **Holt International does not have an India program. How do I continue to meet my post-placement responsibilities?** We will help you identify a new post-placement provider to help you meet your responsibilities to the Indian authorities. If you are the parent of an Indian child placed through WACAP and have not received additional information about this, please reach out to Jessica Glassner at [Jessica.glassner@wacap.org](mailto:Jessica.glassner@wacap.org) prior to March 29<sup>th</sup>.