



From WACAP's Board Vice-Chair, Troy-Skott Pope

Dear Families and Friends of WACAP,

Adopting our son through foster care, my husband and I parented through some significant challenges in that system. It was three and half years of fostering, significantly longer than we ever thought we'd wait, before our adoption was finalized in court. We pledged to share what we learned and help foster parents hoping to adopt through DCYF (Dept. of Children, Youth, and Families). We did this by sharing our adoption story publicly and inviting others to contact us if they found they needed help navigating the system and understanding how to help safeguard the best interests of children.

I was introduced to WACAP by a board member who heard our family's story. I learned how the organization begins with the child and remains focused on the child, seeking and finding families for them. I was invited to join the board and learned about international adoption, learning of children in orphanages waiting. Through those years of fostering, I had learned how unnerving waiting can be. I was amazed to learn and consider that every day kids wait for a family they are one day older and closer to an age where they may not have a chance to find one. Whether a child was waiting in an orphanage or in US foster care, it is all about time. The processes for adoption may be different depending on the country or the system, but the urgency is the same. This is why I am impressed with WACAP's child-centered approach to adoption. I fell in love with the organization, the amazing staff and the wonderful way the organization embraces and commits to lifelong support all types of adoptive families.

With kids around the world waiting and the ever-growing need for families, I'm excited when I think of more kids finding families when WACAP joins forces with Holt International. The organizations could not be better aligned in values or in their commitment to kids. Combined, the resources of the two organizations mean that there are more than 100 years of expertise in international adoption, strong relationships within individual countries and a committed focus on serving U.S. kids in foster care. The stability and strength of these collective resources will mean that children and families continue to have services for decades to come.

Sincerely,

Troy-Skott Pope