

May 2019 | VOL.26

Together with Holt





Cover story

One day in October when the leaves were changing color beautifully, five people arrived at Incheon International Airport to join Happy Journey, HCS's motherland tour program for overseas adoptees. The country was where they had been born, but also an unfamiliar place. They had mixed emotions. This year's Happy Journey was much more special as the adoptees were invited to accompany their partners.(continued in Page 6)

- **Published by Holt Children Services, Inc.**
- **Editor-In-Chief** Kim, Ho-hyeon
- **Editorial** Public Relations Team
- **Copy Editor** Overseas Team, Post Adoption Service Center
- **Design** R2D2
- **Date** May 15, 2019

Copyright © 2019 by Holt Children's Services, Inc.

Contents

- 03 **Greetings**
- 04 **Love in Action I**
'New Start, New Adventure,' Story of Adolescents Discharged from Residential Care
- 06 **Love in Action II**
Happy Journey to the Motherland
- 08 **Special Focus**
We're Getting Married in the Blossoming Spring!
- 10 **Love in world**
Lija, A Little Girl from Nepal
- 12 **Talk-Talk I**
Special People with Loving Hearts
- 14 **Talk-Talk II**
Making Baby Shoes with YouTuber Banz
- 16 **Holt News**



Board of Directors

- Molly Holt, Chairperson / e-mail : holt.molly@gmail.com
- Chung, Yong-keun (Ph. D, CPA, Former Professor of Accounting, College of Business, Dongguk University)
- Lim, Bu-ung (Adviser of HICS)
- Seol, Tae ho (President, Joobok Corp. Trading Company)
- Kim, Kyung-hee (Former Adviser of the Holt Nationwide Sponsorship Association)
- Kim, Jeong-oh (Ph.D, Professor of Law, Yonsei University)
- Park, Gyeong-su (Professor of Hanyang Cyber University)

Auditors

- Hong, Hyun-kook (CPA, Accounts Office of Hong Hyun-kook)
- Choi, Su-yeol (CPA, Executive Director of Deloitte Anjin LLC)

Spring is here with lovely flowers and bright sunshine



We have suffered from bad air pollution this season but are thankful that the last few days have been clear.

Construction of the new buildings at Ilsan Center is going well. The old office and hospital have been cleared away and the new buildings have begun. We had a groundbreaking ceremony on April 8th and it was a happy time anticipating the new buildings. They are scheduled to be finished in 2020.

I am so sorry to not be able to undertake the annual visit to all our branch offices and projects throughout Korea, but President Kim and Department Head Shin have sent reports. I am under treatment for two types of cancer so travel was not possible.

Our recent newlyweds Yun-ok and Hee-mok had a beautiful wedding in our chapel. They are so happy now living together in their own apartment. They continue to work in the Holt workshop every day.

Our Holt Choir, "Voices of the Soul," continue to enjoy monthly events sponsored by JW Company. Their honorary president is "grandfather" to our choir members and takes them out to delicious buffets! The choir sings for him and members present him with special gifts they have made for him. Thank you dear Lee Jung-Ho for your continued interest and care for our choir members!

"When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table. And he said to them, 'I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you, I will not eat again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God.'" Luke 22:14-16

Molly Holt, Chairperson

‘New Start, New Adventure,’ Story of Adolescents Discharged from Residential Care

Jepng, Ji-soo, Department of Welfare Strategy



The evaluation ceremony for the first year of 'Blue Bird, Wingbeats for Dreams' took place at HCS auditorium on February 26. 'Blue Bird, Wingbeats for Dreams' is HCS's sponsorship program for adolescents discharged from residential care with the support of the Social Welfare Foundation of Hyundai Department Store. 30 adolescents about to be discharged from facilities, 27 counselors and 17 mentors joined us in the ceremony. We evaluated the first year's performance having started from August last year and examined the second year's program starting from March last 2018. For the past year, the journey began from the starting ceremony and went through case managers' capability enhancement education, mentors' capability enhancement education, financing education, group mentoring, membership training and a workshop for independence training.

According to the results of the survey on the adolescents and counselors, 87.8% of them responded 'very satisfied' with the first year's performance and 10.8% responded 'satisfied.'



"It was an opportunity to reflect on myself and prepare for the future by myself."
"I made wonderful memories with the help of mentors. I can always count on them when I have some worries."
"I learned how to manage finances through the financing education."

The program supports the independence of the adolescents for two years, one year before and after they are discharged. The first 'blue birds' who completed the first year's program will get home, livelihood and employment grant amounting to 4.8 million won a year in March to establish a stable independent life. They can also count on educational and emotional support by financing education program and group mentoring. We look forward to your constant love and attention for the blue birds about to fly out into the uncharted world.

Happy Journey to the Motherland

Ryu, Min-hyun Ryu, Support Center of Adoptive Families



The welcoming ceremony for Happy Journey participants took place at HCS's auditorium on October 17 last 2018. They felt a little awkward first but soon they interacted with each other and talked about how they feel to be in Korea. Their expectations for the visit varied from deeper understanding of Korea which they only vaguely knew and experiencing Korean culture quite different from their own to looking for adoption records and uniting with their biological family. Their first visit in Korea was Holt Ilsan Center, where Chairperson Molly Holt told them about how the history of Korean adoption began. The visit at the center particularly meant something special for the eldest participant

Janet, as she met again Honorary Director Cho, Byeong-guk of HCS's affiliated health clinic who examined her before she was adopted.

The theme of Happy Journey this year was 'Past & Present of Korea.' The participants experienced Korean culture and tradition, visiting the Folk Village and Changdeokgung Palace, touring Insa-dong, making kimchi and playing traditional Korean music. We could see by their hands tightly gripping the *janggu* sticks that they were really serious about these experiences. A participant was so attracted to *Huimori* beat that he wanted to get a *janggu*. Looking for everywhere at Insa-dong, though, he could not find one. They were also amazed by the Namsan Tower, the symbol of Seoul, as well as the glorious Seoul landscape spread out in front of them at the observatory of the 120-story Lotte World Tower. They also became more intimate with Korea while they enjoyed shopping and dining at Hongdae area popular with young people for its vibrant trendy culture.

The participants made stamps (Dojang) with their Korean names carved, which they have barely used and even have problems pronouncing them. We could see their affection for and interest in *Hangeul* when they seriously and carefully carved their Korean names and pronounced them. The stamps would be the one and only memento for them. We had special touching moments when Sofie who had been adopted to a Belgian family united with her biological family. Six of her family never hesitated to come all the way from afar with packages of gifts for Sofie. Sofie told us that she could feel the true love of Korean family.



In retrospect, the nine days went by so fast. All of us were sad to part ways, not only the participants and their partners but also all the HCS staff who prepared Happy Journey. Our eyes were filled with tears when the youngest participant from Norway burst into tears while presenting her last words. We hope that this visit would be always a happy journey in their memories and that Korea which used to be strange and unreal place would be their homeland.

We're Getting Married in the Blossoming Spring!

Park, Song-eun Park, Holt Ilsan Center



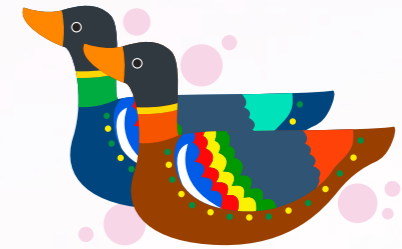
Yeon-ok Kim and Heui-mok Seo got married on March 20 when adorable flowers were blossoming under the cozy sunshine. Forty-one-year-old Yeon-ok has Down syndrome, first-class intellectual disabilities and a beautiful smile. Forty-six-year-old Heui-mok has first-class intellectual disabilities and a bright smile shone on everyone in the morning at work.



while at work or at play. When she spotted a beautiful place, she always asked to take a picture of her and her boyfriend.

After a while, they finally decided to get married. Yeon-ok had never succeeded in losing weight for her whole life of 40 years but lost more than 26 lb for her wedding day. She is also eager to learn everything about household including cooking and cleaning, while Heui-mok worked hard and saved money to be a responsible breadwinner. After thorough preparation, they became a happy husband and wife on a shiny spring day. Even though they get subsidies as beneficiaries of national basic livelihood, they have a lot of difficulties ahead of them. We hope that they would live happily ever after with the support and attention of the community.

Heui-mok and Yeon-ok were admitted to Holt Ilsan Center when they were little. After 30 years of staying at the center's residence with other residents, they moved to a 'group home' where disabled people live together before standing alone in the community. Heui-mok started living alone in 2018 after years of various training. For 40 years, Heui-mok and Yeon-ok had always each other by their side, living together at a group home, singing together as members of Holt Voice of Soul, the choir of Holt Ilsan Center, and working closely together at Holt Rehabilitation Workshop. Along the way, they have become much closer.



It was a year ago when their relationship developed from co-workers to a couple. Actually, Yeon-ok had long had a crush on Heui-mok for his tenderness and one day she made the move first, telling him that she had feelings for him. Her true heart eventually opened up Heui-mok's. They announced that they were a couple on a beautiful spring day in 2018. Every morning Heui-mok took a bus ride of about 45 minutes from his own place to Yeon-ok's group home and waited for her to go to work together. They also came home together after work every evening. They were inseparable. Yeon-ok was all about Heui-mok



Lija, A Little Girl from Napal

Han, Se-heui, Department of Overseas Projects

Lija is a little Nepalese girl, smaller than average children of her age. Her heart had two holes and her hearty artery was dangerously narrow. Her parents had lived in constant fear that something terrible might happen to her. The young mother and father in their early twenties left their hometown and moved to the city of Katmandu only to fix their daughter's heart. However, the reality was harsh. They were able to barely survive and pay for the rent even though they tried hard day and night, working at construction sites and selling vegetables at markets. It was nearly impossible to have her daughter examined at the hospital.



Upon hearing Lija's situation, HCS arranged a thorough medical checkup with the support of Korean sponsors. However, the doctor said that the operation was beyond the capability of the Nepalese hospital and sent Lija and her mother back home. They were devastated but soon another door opened for them. Korea's Severance Hospital volunteered to do the operation on Lija. The young mother who needed a lot of courage even to move to Katmandu from hometown mustered up even greater courage for her daughter and got on the plane with Lija to a strange and far-away country of Korea.

Lija and her mother arrived at Korea on December 15. Lija was smaller and thinner than expected. She was admitted to Severance Hospital right away and examined in various ways. After conducting dental examination, ECG, echocardiogram and heart CT scan, the doctors concluded that one of the holes on Lija's heart was pretty big as wide as 18mm, that the valve from the right atrium to lungs had problems of opening up, and that her pulmonary artery was relatively thick.

After a couple of days, Lija got an operation to stop up the large hole and widen pulmonary artery. The little girl had to lay still all day long with sandbags on her legs until the bleeding stopped. For two weeks at the hospital, she recovered rapidly, adored and loved by the nurses. Her mother took another courage to get over her shyness and said at the farewell party, "It would have been impossible



in Nepal and without your help. Now my daughter is healthy as ever. I'm so happy. We owe lots of people. I'm truly grateful for those who help my daughter get healthy."

It has been four months after Lija went back to Nepal. She got even more healthier and lives a happy life as a normal child. She got pretty taller and gained weight. Now she can breath comfortably and runs around with her friends all the time. Even though her mother still cannot keep her eyes off her daughter for Lija needs constant care for her condition, Lija's mother cannot hold back her smile when she looks at her daughter happily running around with her friends.

Special People with Loving Hearts

Department of Foster Care



An awards ceremony and a Christmas party with HCS's American sponsors took place at HCS auditorium on December 5. The awards were for foster mothers who provided long service or retire honorably. It was the 50th anniversary of the awards intended to acknowledge and enhearten the hard work of foster mothers who take care of children put up for adoption. Everyone at the party had a delightful and meaningful time, commemorating the year's end together.



Delightful noises came out of the auditorium on the sixth floor of HCS building. Inside, colorful balloons spiked up the year-end festivities. Foster mothers beautifully dressed in *hanbok* gathered here and there. Some of them had babies on strollers or in their arms. The sponsors and adoptees from the U.S. made the occasion even more special. Soon 36 foster mothers, 32 of whom had provided long service from 5 to 25 years and four of whom retired honorably, went up onto the platform one by one, received award certificates and medals, and posed for photographs. The award certificates are intended to show gratefulness to the foster mothers who had long sacrificed themselves to take care of children in need of a family.

Chairperson Kim, Ho-hyeon said, "We are beyond grateful to the foster mothers who have played an essential role in helping the children find a decent family." Moon, Han-gi replied as a representative of foster mothers, "When I think of the children, I always feel happy and warm-hearted. As long as I can stand on my feet, I will take care of those children and share the love they give me with others." Bucheon Choir of Han Sarang, a domestic adoptive parents' group, and Holt Agape Choir congratulated the awards with wonderful performances. The American sponsors thanked the foster mothers, personally presenting gifts. Finally, everyone joined cutting the Christmas cake and the party was over in glorious mood.



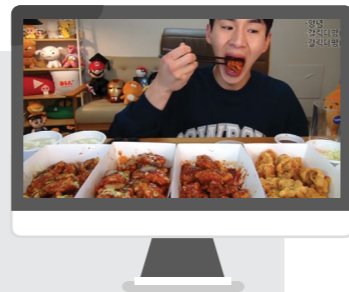
Foster mother Kim, Myeong-sun joined the ceremony with her family and said with a big smile, "The child who left my family a year ago to be adopted sent us photographs. I was really happy looking at those happy moments of the child. I was a little late for the ceremony this morning, looking over the photographs again." All foster mothers said in one voice, "It's a hard work, but the rewarding moments when we see the children grow up in a decent family and the love and happiness they give us keep us going." The children in need of help can live under the wings of the foster mothers for a while before being adopted. We are truly grateful to the special mothers who give the children a temporary but loving home.

Making Baby Shoes with YouTuber Banz

Chae, Seong-hyeon, Department of Cooperation



According to a media survey on Korean elementary school students, their number one future hope was athletes and number two broadcaster/entertainer. It was particularly interesting that a new comer on the top 10 was internet celebrity. Personal online channels such as YouTube have a huge influence these days. Among them, Banz is one of the most popular YouTuber in Korea.



Banz (real name: Jeong, Man-su) is famous for his *meokbang* show, a live online audiovisual broadcast in which a host keeps eating large amount of food while interacting with their audience. He is popular because unlike other YouTubers pursuing repugnant-sensational online broadcast, he keeps his show gentle, smart and yet humorous. He is also famous for his marvelous shape as he works out eight hours a day after *meokbang* show.

Banz wanted to do something special with his agency Dia TV to commemorate acquiring 3 million subscribers. They came up with the idea to join HCS's special occasion 'Dear Family Box, Making Baby Shoes' with his 300 fans. Banz and his fans visited HCS from all around the country to join the beautiful occasion of sharing. Banz and HCS presented his fans supper boxes and souvenirs by way of appreciation. During the supper, Banz delightfully interacted with his fans, shaking hands, making small talks and taking photographs.

They had a meaningful time, making baby shoes together, making mistakes making them, laughing together, and being inspired by moving stories. Banz completely understood the meaning and purpose of the occasion and made it even more special. His fans who were there left messages on their online posts that they were happy to join such a meaningful occasion and that they had a great time with Banz and it was much more meaningful as it was about sharing. Banz also shared his joyful experiences of that day with his wider fan base on his live broadcast. Although all of his 3 million fans were not invited to the occasion, they supported it with their encouraging comments.

The 150 pairs of baby shoes will be presented to the babies put up for adoption and the donations will be used in fostering them such as diapers and powdered formula. We hope that other internet celebrities join Banz's path of sharing and encouraging good deeds.



HCS awarded as the 27th Good Promotion Chosen by the People

HCS's radio promotion titled 'Strong Fences for Children and Family' was awarded as the 27th Good Promotion Chosen by the People hosted by Korea Advertisers Association and sponsored by the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism in order to raise awareness on promotions among the people and to encourage positive promotion culture. We thank you all who care for and support HCS.



Sharing by necktie upcycling of Holt Daegu Branch

Various organizations and businesses in Daegu area joined HCS's Dreamcle movement. Inari, PAC Music, Jjuju Sarang, Yeson AK, KoreaDduk, Daegu mothers' online society DaeguMom, and Daegu Infrastructure Corporation raised money by necktie upcycling and delivered donations for HCS children.



Haha-hoho Outing of Holt Ilsan Center

On December 20 last year, residents of Holt Ilsan Center and the staff of Hanwha Chemical visited 63 Square, a sky-high building in Yeoueido. The residents and the staff made pairs and had a wonderful time, having lunch together and enjoying the aquarium and 63 observatory. Hanwha Chemical made the year-end much more special with surprise gifts for all of the 220 residents.



Holt School Play of Art and Culture of Suyeong Community Service Center

The 11th Holt School Play of Art and Culture took place. The audience enjoyed various works of the children who had worked hard for the past year, starting from an art exhibition, preschoolers' ballet performance, dance performance remixing famous Idol groups' popular songs, English speech, adults' special piano concert and instrumental musicians' ensemble to the great finale of chorus. We felt really proud to see the children develop year after year.



Love Sharing Donations of Multicultural Family Support Center of Mapo-gu

On January 31, ten organizations including Korea Midland Power (President Park, Hyeong-gu) and Overseas Expansion Partners' Association (Chairperon Na, Boknam) donated 10 million won for 'Love Sharing Donations for Vietnam Multicultural Families.' The donation will be used to help Vietnam multicultural families in financial difficulties.



Senior Trip of Jungdong Daycare Center

Five-year-old children of Jungdong Daycare Center took a senior trip to Cheese Village on January 31. They had unforgettable time, having pizza as lunch which they themselves made with organic cheese, riding sleighs and tractors, feeding goats and making rice puffs.



Angel Network delivered donations for the construction of an elementary school in Cambodia

On December 24 last year, Angel Network, Suwon volunteers' group, delivered donations for the construction of a public elementary school in Cambodia. The network have sponsored international development cooperation projects, starting from the classrooms construction of Tulusadebi elementary school in Koldara, Nepal, hit by an earthquake in 2017. We hope that Cambodian children would blossom their dreams and hope by their love.



Special 100-day party of Holt Chungcheong Branch

Fifty families of Family Network Tree came forward to raise donations and held 100-day party for HCS babies. We are really grateful to those who donated and blessed our babies who turned 100th day since birth, including Family Network Tree, Reverend Min, Byeong-u of Holt Chungcheong Church, Director Lee, Yong-hua of Lee Yong-hua Plant Dental Clinic and Deputy Director Yun, So-jeong of Lee Yong-hua Plant Dental Clinic.



Bonri Family Art Festival of Bonri Community Service Center of Dalseo-gu

On December 7 last year, 2018 Bonri Family Art Festival took place, where the participants could show off their creativity and skills they had developed for the past year through lifelong learning program. 130 students of nine art subjects pleased the ears and eyes of the community residents with their works and performances. They had special moments, sharing what they had learned and interacting with each other.



Happy Mothers' Song of Achimddeul

The meeting of self-help group Happy Mothers' Song took place in December last year to support 85 single parents. Awards were presented to the mothers who had made the best of their lives for the past year. Everyone had a delightful time and got closer to each other at the year-end party.



Tour Concert of Voices of Soul of Jeonju Babies' Home

'Voices of Soul,' HCS' disabled people's choir had a tour concert at Yeonji Hall of Korean Sound and Culture Hall in Jeonju from November 9 to 11 last year. The concert was full of audience amidst hearty cheers of the faithful members of Jeonju Donghyeon Church. It ended successfully thanks to numerous sponsors, volunteers and others who contributed in one way or another.



Care and Job Empirical Education of Daegu Holt Psychological Therapy Center

The second-year students of Hwawon High School who want to be psychological counselors in the future visited Daegu Holt Psychological Therapy Center on January 17. The students were briefed on HCS projects by the head of the center, ahead a Q&A section and toured the center. Even though it was a rather short visit, we hope that they had a meaningful time and that the visit would be a valuable asset for their future.



13th Adoption Family Works Competition

Overseas Residents and foreign residents in Korea who would like to donate to Holt Children's Services can be a Holt sponsor through the methods below.

Via bank transfer

- **Bank** : SHINHAN BANK, SUHKYO-DON BRANCH
(Address : 449-14, SUHKYO-DONG, MAPO-GU, SEOUL, KOREA)
- **Account No** : 140 008 013005 (Holt Children's Services, Inc)
- **Swift code** : SHBK KRSE (When sending money from abroad)

By mail (certified check in USD or Euro)

- **Address** : Sponsorship Team, Holt Children's Services, Inc.
Yanghwa-ro 19, Mapo-gu, Seoul, Korea
- **Beneficiary** : Holt Children's Services, Inc

In person on a visit

Sponsorship Team, Holt Children's Services, Inc.
Yanghwa-ro 19, Mapo-gu, Seoul, Korea

For more information, contact Sponsorship Team

- **Tel.** +82-2-331-7073 / **e-mail** : sponsor@holt.or.kr

* Receipts and certificate are available but it is not possible to get an overseas tax benefit with those.

Have you heard of Sponsorship for Single-Parent Families, HCS' social service project to spread seeds of love?



Among various HCS's social service projects, Sponsorship for Single-Parent Families encourages and supports single-parent families to achieve self-reliance. Its ultimate goal is to help children grow in a wholesome environment and eventually make the world brighter and happier. Here are the details of the project.

Professional and trustworthy counseling

HCS provides single-parent families with consultations for psychological issues and child development

To contact the Family Care Center for Single Parents
Telephone: +82-2-331-7081/7082

"Strong Mothers", a support program for childcare expenses

"Strong Mothers" is a Holt's program to provide financial support for self-reliance and child-raising of single-parent families according to the financial plans they submit to HCS.

"365 Baby Care Kits" provides baby-care products

This program provides baby-care kits consisting of baby formula, diapers, hygiene wet wipes and other daily supplies. The recipients are supported at long-term or short-term bases according to their situations.

"Residences Support Program" to provide warm places to live

According to Single Parents Support Act, Holt provides residences for single parents (qualified as a householder who does not own a residence).

Group Homes for Single Mothers and Children

Holt operates six group homes across the country to provide room and board, medical service, psychological consultations, therapies and education for self-reliance so that single parents can lead independent lives and raise their children in a stable environment.

Alternative schools to uphold the right to be educated

Holt established and operates alternative schools, Holt Goun School and Achimddeul (Morning Garden) School (Dae-jeon) for teenage single parents. Single parents can receive high school certificates when they finish one of these schools and prepare to enter into society.

"Spreading and Sharing Love", a self-help gathering of single parents

This is a Holt program which provides education and cultural experiences once a month for single parents participating in programs by Family Care Center for Single Parents.

*“The happiness of the child”
is the focus of welfare
services of
Holt Children’s Services. Inc.*

