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# Together *with* Holt





## Cover story

The Stevens couple, Nicholas(31)& Janell(30), has one biological son who was born in 2011. They adopted Jeong-eui(2) in October, 2014 who was born prematurely. Jeong-eui enjoyed playing with his adoptive parents at their first meeting.

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We would like to request your attention,  
prayer and sponsorship

Fall is here and we rejoice in the beautiful harvest, I would like to show my sincere gratitude for those who have devotedly offered help and service. Many adoptees and adoptive families visited Korea this summer as always to look for their roots, and Holt Children's Services, Inc. (HCS) provided various follow-up services. In response to increasing demands for follow-up counseling for domestic adoption, we are also planning to expand this service.

In commemoration of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of HCS next year, we are preparing evaluation of some of our welfare works as well as blueprints for new projects. We have also come up with many plans to expand fund-raising for sponsorship since it is vital for our welfare projects to be implemented even more vigorously.

More than anything, I am truly grateful that Chairperson Molly Holt has her health restored and I want to present sincere gratitude for those including Holt staff members who have prayed for her well-being. I hope that she would become even healthier so that she could proceed with her lifelong projects for adoptees and the disabled. There are a few pages left on the 2014 calendar. I hope all of you will bear abundant fruit this year, looking back over again what you have started and making greater efforts to overcome shortfalls. Also, I would like to ask your attention, prayer and support to help HCS stand firm as Korea's leading institution that provides shelter for those living in shadows. Thank you.

President Kim, Dae-yul



Dear Friends, Sponsors and Helpers

Autumn is here with clear skies, golden harvest fields. Big trees on our hillside drop chestnuts, ginkgo fruit and acorns. Here at Ilsan Center, we have less rooms for our residents to accommodate the need for extra housemothers on our 3 shift-8 hour schedule. I miss so much having residents and housemothers in my home, but having Dr Cho, Byung-kuk here often is a great comfort.

We do have lots of visitors; residents, staff and guests. Dr. Cho and I were so thankful to take a 2 week trip to Oregon in August. We met with many Holt families, adoptees, my family members and spent some time

at the Oregon Coast and in Portland. I had thought I never could visit Oregon again. My health is improving, with my cancer in remission and shingles pain some reduced with special lotions and the use of ice packs. The new Adoption Law has caused many problems but it has been nice in one way, families have to come to Korea twice or stay about 2 months in order to make 2 appearances at the Family Court. This enables the families to spend time with their new children and is especially important since the children are now 2-3 years old and so attached to their foster mothers. We have had 3 different families stay here in our small apartment at Memorial Hall with their new children (all special needs from Ilsan Center) and rejoiced to see the little ones bond to their families and even learn to speak English or Luxemburg! We have been so fortunate to have Joey Green, Paul Elliot and several other volunteers over 1914, and just now Jan from Denmark is here until others come in October. We continue to be so grateful to the many "day volunteers" who come in busses or cars from schools, factories, banks, churches, companies etc. to work for one day pushing wheelchairs, cleaning rooms, cutting lawns or any other work that needs to be done here at Ilsan Center. These dear people often bring donations of needed items or funds for our residents. Our thanks to you many helpers and friends. These days I am reading in Hebrews, the first chapter begins so wonderfully!

"In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things and through whom He made the universe." Heb.1:1-2.

My thanks to all of you in our Lord Jesus  
Chairperson Molly Holt

# The gift from heaven

We hear many great experiences of adoptive families from their letters. The families become “one” with the child, understanding the “Jeong (Caring)” that flows in the spirit and culture of Korea. One adoptive family who was once matched with twins but cancelled and left with much pain and grief miraculously got pregnant with twins like a gift from Heaven. We may hear stories of our children who are raised in a loving family in the plan of God and of the families who become perfect in the grace of God.

## I are We

**Scott and Leah May are the parents of four children adopted from South Korea**

The aroma of warm cinnamon enveloped us as we approached the corner. The “ho ddeok” vendor looked up from her work as we approached. Taking in our family, myself and my wife Leah who are very obviously Western, and our four children, perhaps even more obviously Korean, she smiled a bright greeting us “Annyeonghaseyo!” Always having room for the sweet and soft treat I stopped and indicated that I would like to purchase two, please. Acknowledging my order and taking the ₩2,000 I offered she quickly wrapped six ho ddeok in paper and placed them in a bag. Handing me the parcel and smiling at my confusion, she looked to our children then back to me and simply said “Yeoseot”, six. Her simple action had clearly defined what words have so difficult a time conveying. The “I” that had been me had become “We”.

I have Korean children, they are a part of my family, but they are also a part of Korea. This connectedness on so many different levels, this “jeong”, is something I will never truly know, but it is palpable when I spend time in Korea. Our first exposure to this aspect of Korean culture was when we visited to Seoul in February of 2003 to adopt our first child, Jacob.

He was seven months old when we traveled to Seoul to welcome him into our family. The process from application to travel took only nine months. We met him in his foster family’s apartment while he was napping on the yoo. During our visit it was abundantly clear the amount of love his foster mother had for him. Along with the support the social worker gave to both child and foster mother it was perhaps our first look at this commitment to each other, this “jeong”, we would witness so often over the next twelve years in our relationship with Korea. Having completed our first adoption through Korea and getting our first taste (often literally!) of the culture, we realized that Korea was now intertwined with our family and that, God allowing, we would welcome many more children from that country. Jacob returned with us in the Spring of 2014 to visit his foster mother for the first time since 2003. The love on her face and the lightness of heart upon seeing Jacob were proof of the very real connection she has maintained with him these many years. In their embrace there was



a validation of the quiet, diligent work she has done for so many children. And at her departure there was a regeneration of spirit to continue the work for many more years in the hope for more of her beloved foster sons and daughters to find families and perhaps, one day long from now, return that she might embrace them again. Our daughter Lily was born in 2005.

In September of that year we happily boarded a flight for Seoul. This second trip to Seoul in warmer weather allowed us to experience a broader geographical area as we toured surrounding sites such as the Korean Folk Village and Namsan Tower.

Many of our days ended with Leah and I some distance from our hotel with smiles on our faces as we anticipated our meandering path back home for the night. The joy of seeing what is around each corner, feeling safe in a country that has respect for each other, and, again, the overwhelming sense of community, made our exploration delightful. Allowing for God's provision we had room for our family to grow and began the process with WACAP and Holt Korea for a third child. Over the next two years we awaited the opportunity to travel for a third time to Korea and were filled with joy at the announcement of our second son, Nathan. In October of 2008 we were introduced to the strongest nine month old in the country! Gaining greater awareness of God's plan for our family we felt encouraged to begin the program for a fourth child. Our fourth child is a daughter born in October of 2011. Sophie had the privilege of spending two and a half years in South Korea. She learned the language, the food, the community, and the deep love of her foster family. More than any of our other children she learned jeong.

We spent two months in Anyang, a city about 25 minutes from Seoul, and used every opportunity to learn more about our new daughter and her culture. As a family we traveled to markets, parks, mountains, shops, and museums. We learned words and cooking styles. When we had meetings with Sophie we spent every moment observing her, playing with her, eating with her. What we did was spend two months becoming connected to Korea. And I realized that we weren't taking her from somewhere, we were just making that "somewhere" bigger. That this connection we have with Korea is not ending. Because the connection has not happened from a taking, but from a giving. The giving of time and the perseverance of the Holt workers, the giving of love and tears from the foster families, and ultimately the giving sacrifice of the birth mothers thinking wholly of their sons and daughters above themselves. Even when considering the differences in cultures and the distances involved it seems that the very nature of our adoptive families, the sacrifices, the commitments made, the decisions acted upon: these are the things that give us our sense of home with Korea. Maybe in some small way it is what also gives us jeong. (you can read the blog and watch the videos of our two months in South Korea at [sokofour.wordpress.com](http://sokofour.wordpress.com))

Written by Scott and Leah May



### God's eternal goodness for our family

My husband and I married in 2006 at the young ages of 24 and 21 years old. We had big plans to one day have a large family of our own and also pursue adoption. In January of 2007, we were ecstatic to know that we were to have our first child, but quickly the excitement dissipated as we had a miscarriage and then another miscarriage. We were determined to control our own destiny by trying numerous infertility treatments that were all unsuccessful. We were heartbroken but still hopeful. After our last failed infertility treatment, my husband suggested that we should adopt as we had discussed prior to our marriage. The night my husband and I decided to proceed with international adoption gave me a new sense of hopefulness and comfort. We had faith in God that His plan would be perfect for us. We were confident that it was God who planted the desire in our hearts and it would be God that would direct the chapters of our lives to parenthood. We went through the long process of paperwork, submitting funds, and then waiting and praying. After months of waiting for a child referral, we received a phone call. We were referred beautiful twin girls and we were beyond joyful as this is what we hoped to receive. We committed ourselves the next few months to prepare the arrival of our twin girls, Kate and Lynn. My sister arranged me a lavish baby shower and over 40 friends attended showering us with generous gifts. As the excitement mounted and we began our travel arrangements, we received a call with devastating news. The birth mother of the twins began reconsidering her decision of releasing the twins for adoption. Two hours later, we received another phone call that a final decision has been made and that the birth mother has reconsidered and has decided to parent the children after a 1 year absence from them. The agency attempted to console us, but we were heartbroken. My husband and I felt so empty; whatever we did to have our own children would ultimately fail. We have had 2 miscarriages, 7 failed infertility treatments, and now a failed adoption.

As faithful followers of Christ, we truly believed that the Lord gave and the Lord has taken away. After giving my husband and I some time to grieve, we resubmitted our adoption paperwork to a more reputable organization known as Holt International. Excited, but cautious, knowing



nothing in our plans to have children would be certain, we waited. Fast forward a few months, we received a referral of a precious baby boy! We redid the twin's nursery for my waiting son. After waiting for what felt like an eternity, we were given permission to pick up our son and we came home to a large gathering of over 30 friends and family at the LAX airport in Los Angeles, California.

We named him Jonathan, meaning a gift from God. He was healthy, happy, full of energy, and even more perfect than what we had ever imagined. Soon after Jonathan came home, we found out we were expecting twins!

My husband always said that one day God would bless us with twin girls because we believed in His plan for us and we believed His plan is perfect.

We named the twins Annabelle and Danielle and they are adored by their brother Jonathan. However, my husband and I felt our family was still incomplete and after much prayer, we again began our adoption journey.

Currently, we are in process to bring baby brother, Timothy home and by Christmas of 2014, we will have 4 children ages 4 and younger! During this grueling process of adoption, God opened up our eyes and hearts to become more involved in the orphan community. He planted a seed that would encourage us to learn more about the great need there were in orphanages in Korea and everywhere else in the world. We are also thankful to have supportive friends and family who continually support our various charitable functions and our dreams and visions to forever to be a part of something so meaningful.

Written by Justin and Jane Ha

# Prayers of Joseph Green

My name is Joseph Green. I was born, Yoon Kyung Min, in 1987. I was born with many health concerns such as a cleft lip and palate, amniotic band, hemangiomas, and 9 toes total. Some would say I began life at a disadvantage. Given my many health concerns, my birth family could simply not take care of me. I was given to Holt for adoption a couple days after I was born.

This would seem to be a tragedy considering my physical state, but God was watching over me. In the same year, there was a family in America who had just adopted a Korean baby, also with a cleft. They were filled with joy and couldn't be happier, so they thought. They received a picture of a baby who was struggling to survive. They looked at the picture and didn't see a tragedy, they saw their son. So in 1988 I was adopted to America.

"I have never forgotten you" said the birth father. Joseph Green, a Korean American adoptee, believes that he will also never forget the meeting with his birth family. Although one cannot turn back the clock to change the past, Joseph has decided to live each day to the fullest, and to give thanks for everything. This is the story of Joseph Green.

The Yoon Family  
(mother passed away)



Once in America, I thrived. I received the surgeries i required and top medical care, but most importantly, I received love.

Growing up, love was never lacking in my family. My brother and I were the same age, so we went through many of the same experiences. I laughed, I cried, and I got into mischief. I grew up knowing I was adopted, but I never felt I was. My parent's love showed me I belonged.

My mom never wanted to hide my brother and I's heritage. She would take us to Korean restaurants, where we learn how to say "Thank you". In kindergarten until 3rd grade, she would dress us up in hanboks and present us to our classmates. She learned how to make bulgogi for us, because it was Korean. So growing up, I always knew where I was from, but I never felt the desire to come back until many years later.

### Happy Together 2013, Motherland camp for Overseas adoptees with Special needs Holt Happy Together which led to

In August of 2013, I received news that there would be a Korea motherland tour by Holt for adoptees with disabilities. Before this, Korea seemed like a far away land to me. A land I may never see and really didn't have a desire to see. My life was built in America. My family was in America, but this was an opportunity of a lifetime. A chance to say thank you to my birth parents for give me the opportunity to live.



At the farewell banquet



During the welcoming ceremony

To live a life full of love and embrace who God created me to be. I went believing God wanted to show me my past, but his plans were greater. The week I spent in Korea was eye opening.

I learned about my culture, but also witnessed it. I came to appreciate my rich heritage, but also appreciate my life and how far I'd come. Unfortunately, because of law changes, I wasn't able to meet my birth family to say thank you. Toward the end of the trip I realized why God led me here. He wasn't showing me my past, but my future.

One of the last places we went to on our tour was Holt's Ilsan Town. There I saw a life I was saved from. I saw kids and even adults who had probably never known what it meant to be loved. Had I never been adopted, this is where I would have grown up. I began to realize God blessed me, but it wasn't to keep for myself.

He wanted me to give back, 2 Corinthians 8-9. This was made even clearer when I heard they needed volunteers. Upon hearing this, I knew what I wanted to do. So upon returning to the US, I got everything ready to volunteer for 3 months in the summer of 2014. This thought intimidated me, but I knew I had to step out of my comfort zone and into Jesus'.

Volunteering here at Ilsan Town has been life changing. I have witnessed what Jesus' love looks like through the heart and lives of the people who work here. I've learned my story and appreciate what God has done for me. I've learned that a little time and a lot of love go along way in making a difference in the lives of the residence here.

Even though I came here to help them, they've taught me what love means and not to take it for granted. If this was the only thing God prepared for me, I'd be more than content, but God had more. He reunited me with my birth family.

During the Happy Together tour, I was told that reuniting adoptees and birth families had very low success. While disheartened, I decide to write a letter to my birth family and leave it in God's hands. I didn't believe I'd hear back, so when I received news that my family was found, I was stunned to say the least. I never considered I would ever meet them, so this left my mind racing. What would I say? What would I ask? What do they look like?

I didn't have to wait long. My birth family seemed just as eager to meet me, as I was to meet them. I couldn't wait to show them that I was okay. To tell them my life was full of happiness and love. I didn't want them to feel guilty, because their decision saved my life.

### My precious and blessed life with two families

The day came when I was to meet them. I was calm as I rode to the Post Adoption office. I was calm after I got there. I was nervous 1 minute before I was introduced to them. As I walked in I didn't know what to expect, but once I came in they embraced me.

Emotions were high. Tears were shed, but not ones of sadness. Tears of joy. Emotions 26 years in the making.

The moment was surreal and I think all of us felt that way. At a lost for words with so much to say. I never felt uncomfortable, which is weird for being in a room with strangers. I told them how thankful I was and that I've had a great life. They told me they never forgot about me.

We began to build our relationship together without skipping a beat. Although we have a language barrier, the time flew quickly. We made plans to get together before my trip was done. The experience of meeting my birth family is one I'll never forget. I came to Korea with one great family and will leave with two.

My prayer is this. I pray that we live one day at a time and never take it for granted. Life is too precious to live our lives looking back, dwelling on decisions we should or shouldn't have made. I pray we live our lives for today, so our futures will be ones without regret.

We can't change our past, but we can change how we live each day. This world like to tell us how we should live, but Jesus showed us how to live. God sent His son to teach us of forgiveness. To teach us that He has forgiven us, so that we may live life burden-free, not so we can make the same mistakes again. From the dust we formed and to the dust we shall return. The only difference between us is what we lived for.

Written by Joseph Green

“ Only one family was great for me, now I have two families who love me.

”



The Green Family

# I want to help those in greater need than I am

A class of Maehyang Girls' Information High School in Suwon is the first school class participating in HCS' Storehouse of Love for Children, a sponsorship program through which independent businesspeople and educational institutions can offer regular sponsorship. We met Ha, U-jeong, a student of the class who said that she had donated the money she had earned through part-time jobs to help single mothers. Let's revisit the scene full of bright hope where we adults learned many lessons from young students.

## Special sponsors from Maehyang Girls' Information High School

The school is located in a quiet and peaceful neighborhood with a stream passing beside older traditional Korean homes. This is Maehyang Girls' Information High School, with 100 years history in Suwon, Gyeonggi-do. At this school, we met students from their junior year Class 4 of whose interest in the Holt's support program for single mothers started with the philanthropic education they received. After searching for voluntary ways to help, all the class agreed to donate 1,000won per person every month and participate in Holt's Storehouse of Love for Children as the first school class to help single mothers.

These girls, who are always short on pocket money for themselves, said with bright smiles, "We want teenage single mothers to continue going to school and we're proud that the little money we can save by giving up a single bus ride or a snack could be a great help for someone."

## Ha, U-jeong, started sponsoring Holt's single mothers even in poor circumstances

We met Ha, U-jeong (age 17), an unusual sponsor from this special class. She has donated 10,000won each month to Holt even when she manages both school and part-time jobs. She bashfully said that she sponsors because she wanted to spend extra money she received from a scholarship to help those in need, adding "I know there are people worse off than I am and I wanted to help them as I can."



좋아요



1 like = 1,000원

한달 1000원으로  
3명이 행복해요!  
나누는것은  
생각보다 어렵지  
않아요-준,상,...

따뜻한 마음을  
같이 나누어 보아요



Together

우리가 간식 한 번  
함으면 아이 미래가  
생겨나요. 한 아이를  
키우는 기쁨 같이 나눠요.



1 The junior year class 4 supports HCS' Storehouse of Love for Children.

2 Ha, U-jeong is holding a panel of Storehouse of Love for Children.

Although she had a difficult time adjusting to high school because she has to earn her own money ever since she started high school, she said thinking of others with more burdens in their lives and helping them, gave her strength to go through it.

When she had the opportunity to receive Holt's philanthropy education she discovered a particular interest in helping single mothers. She realized that this could happen to her friends or anyone close to her so she made a firm determination to take action. She feels really sorry for single mothers and their babies who have to face society's prejudice for sins they did not commit.

She hopes her small but meaningful support for single mothers will help their babies grow up as wonderful people. She hopes that unwed mothers do not think of this current predicament as the end of their lives but as a start to overcome and begin new lives.

### I'd like to expand my sponsorship to those overseas

U-jeong's friends at school support her and say they want to help others as she does. Her mother, who has not been able to consider such matters, has now started helping others thanks to her daughter.

Particularly, the students from Class 4 encourage other students still hesitating to realize their wishes to participate in this monthly gift. The happiness and warmth they receive from giving help to the unwed mothers will be remembered for years to come.

U-jeong expressed her wish to expand her sponsorship to those beyond Korea when she gets a job after graduation. She plans to participate in volunteer work in Cambodia, and feels that will help her know better to sponsor those in need overseas.

### Sharing is an opportunity to get one's heartt

U-jeong thinks sharing can open others' hearts. She said that she would never have been able to help others if she kept thinking 'How can I help others when I am poor and have a hard time with my own life? I can help others after I get a good job and earn good money.' Once she accomplished the first step, she gained courage to help others continually. Sponsoring Holt's program, she thinks a lot about unwed mothers of her own age.

We kept listening to her, and agreed that this new perception can help to change negative perceptions. Her warm heart to help is another form of sharing.

She told us with a bright smile she hoped there could be more support for unwed mothers so that they won't be discriminated against and helped to become decent members of society. This interview was a genuine healing time with the girl with such a beautiful mind.

Written by Chae, Sung-hyun Sponsorship Development Team

#### What is Storehouse of Love for Children?

Storehouse of Love for Children is HCS's regular sponsorship program with the participation of independent businesspeople such as restaurants, doctor's offices, private educational institutions and cafes.

Educational institutions such as school classes and day care centers also contribute.

(Contact : 82-2-331-7143)

# Supermoms are strong-raising children together and supporting each other!

Young mothers received 365 Baby Care Kits prepared by HCS and LIG Insurance Co., Ltd for single-parent families with life hardships. Letters containing touching stories arrived as if to repay for these sincere gifts. Here are some heartfelt stories from supermoms trying to take the best care of their children even in dire circumstances.

## Let's raise our children together and support each other!

HCS's future is children and its calling is to let children grow with loving care and fill the world with even brighter laughter. Toward this goal, HCS has provided programs to help unwed mothers, in every possible way. We support single mothers who decide to raise their babies by themselves. Among other things,



### The last choice of a supermom

**Gang, Yun-a (alias, age 27)**

I am the single mother of a 28-month-old baby boy and a seven-year-old girl in Incheon. This warmhearted gift makes my eyes fill with tears, I am so overwhelmed by your compassion I cannot fall asleep. The box of 365 Baby Care Kit sent from HCS and LIG Insurance was big enough for my children to play inside! Besides the box-full of heartfelt presents, the supporting letter really touched my heart. I received more than just baby products.

I chose the path to become an under-aged single mother, studying and raising my baby at the same time, because I did not want to do something I would regret for the rest of my life. I wanted to see my daughter grow up and be there for her. When my daughter became seven years old, I was going to have a family with a decent man, but chose to be a single mother of two children instead. Despite the poor circumstances, I have studied theology and advanced to a graduate school to become a missionary. If I have the opportunity, I want to go to Germany with my children and study there.

People criticize me for raising children by myself and investing in my own education while I have children to take care of. They say, "Don't get married again. You can't meet a man and have another child." or "Study? You're a mother, so concentrate on child-rearing." Sometimes I hear worse things than these. But I study not for the expectation of making money but to show my children how to make a right choice.

I tell my daughter, "There are various types of families. Don't be sad because you don't have a father. You have a supermom" my children answer me with laughter, which is the greatest gift in the whole world for me. I hope my children will become the best in their studies, be warm-hearted people who love their lives and have compassionate minds to help others. Please wait and see if the seed of hope you planted today would develop into a tree or a flower in the future. I am truly grateful for those who support my children.



HCS worked with LIG Insurance in a campaign called 365 Baby Care Kit. The kits are filled with baby-caring necessities including disposable diapers, wet tissues and powdered formula. They were sent to single-parent families throughout the country. Beginning with along Holt's efforts to start this campaign, the kits are filled with the help of numerous volunteers who heartily pack the boxes and add letters and books along with their prayers. We spent those days working with one accord to help young mothers. Afterward, we selected the most touching stories of those mothers who received their kits through a survey.

When we read the letters, their touching stories blew our minds. We wish that it could be possible to change the world a little bit and let children grow more happily by sharing their stories with the world. We hope these stories could change society into a place a little warmer toward those unwed mothers. With an honest hope for this day to come, we introduce these precious stories.

• **Holt Children's Services, Inc.**

sponsors ₩200,000(\$186) monthly to the families of unmarried mothers who want to be a good mothers, in spite of their difficult situations.

- **Contact for sponsorship :**

**E-mail :** sponsor@holt.or.kr

**Tel.** +82-2-331-7073

- **Via bank transfer Bank :** SHINHAN BANK, SUHKYO-DONG BRANCH (Address : 449-14, SUHKYO-DONG, MAPO-GU, SEOUL, KOREA)

**Swift code :** SHBK KRSE

**Account NO :** 140-008-013005  
(Holt Children's Services, Inc.)

## Warm consolation in a hard life

**Lee, Se-jin(alias, age 20)**

I am a single mother of a baby girl who is about three months old. After I left the shelter for single mothers last year, I temporarily lived in the backroom of my friend's store. I knew that it would not be easy to raise a child without a father, but I decided to raise my baby rather than choose adoption.

I knew from experience that every child would be completely happy he has a mother who loves him unconditionally and teaches him everything.

Even though I want to be the best mother, it was not easy to raise a child without help. After spending all of my child-rearing support money for single parents, which amounts to 350,000won per month, on diapers, powdered formula and baby products, I did not have money to buy food and used to ask a friend for meals. Low-quality diapers I used could not properly absorb the baby's urine so that I was always busy washing wet baby clothes. There were even times when I had to use cloth diapers because I ran out of disposable diapers. Besides, I had to spend a lot of money on powered formula since my baby ate so well. Sometimes I wanted to let all things down, but I am empowered again whenever I see my baby well fed and happy.

When I received the kit after the Healthy Family Support Center informed me of the 365 Baby Care Kit, I felt really reassured and grateful. Physical support was a great help but also the book titled Enthusiasm on Fire (working title) sent along with the products consoled me in a great way.

The book has a saying, "Everyone is living his first life. It is only natural that we often lack something, living in pain and insecurity." This made me realize that I am not the only one having a difficult and insecure journey in life, it gave me great consolation. Now I am planning to get a certificate from a cyber college and start to work at a day care center next year. A person who went through difficult times will want to tell you: who are currently going through the same is: "whoever you are, you can overcome your difficulties and your child will grow up as a strong person who can beat any hardship in the world." Go, young mothers!



# Where can we go with our children?

## Unique playgrounds where parents and children play together



### Pororo Park

Koreans have a thing that can stop a crying baby. It is Pororo as known as President Po, a character of a children's animation. Pororo is a cute penguin who always wears goggles and has a wish to fly in the sky. You can meet Pororo and his friends at Pororo Park of D-Cube City in Seoul.

Children can enjoy three-dimensional images, a midjet train, a ball pool, Pororo's house reenacted from where the characters live and a play space filled with various blocks and toys as well as kids' café, the favorite of little visitors. Since D-Cube City is a department store, you can conveniently enjoy sightseeing and shopping at one place.

#### \* Information

- **Entrance fee** : 6,000won for adults / 16,000won for children / Free for children under one
- **Business hours from Sunday to Monday** : 10:30a.m. to 8:30p.m. (last entrance time : 6:30 p.m.)
- **Business hours on Saturday** : 10:30a.m. to 9:30p.m. (last entrance time : 7:30p.m.)
- **Business hours of Character Shop and Food Court** : 10:30a.m. to 10:30p.m.
- **Location** : Forth floor of D-Cube City, Sindorim-dong, Guro-gu, Seoul

### Ddalgiga Joa (meaning 'I love strawberries' in Korean)

Ddalggi (meaning 'strawberry' in Korean) is a tomboy character with red hair and an impish grin. You can meet Ddalggi often made into character products children adore at Times Square in Yeongdeungpo. Ddalgiga Joa offers children a children's hair salon, a bookstore, a pleasure dome for physical fitness, and a water bounce, while offering parents a cafeteria, meeting the demands of both parents and children. Times Square is one of the greatest shopping and cultural venues with various food services in Seoul where you can enjoy relaxed night time after spending time with your children during the day.

#### \* Information

- **Entrance fee** : 3,000won for adults / 12,000won for children
- **Business hours** : 10:30a.m. to 10:00p.m.
- **Location** : Second basement level of Times Square, 442, 4-ga, Yeongdeungpo-dong, Yeongdeungpo-gu, Seoul



Visitors to Korea surely want to spend quality time and build up good memories with their children. However, choosing the places on a sightseer's pamphlet can only exhaust both parents and children. Is there any place suitable for children so that both parents and children could enjoy together? Where are the best places near HCS where they can spend time during a short visit to Korea? Here are some unique places that can satisfy these demands.

## Hot places around HCS

### Hapjeong

HCS is located in Hapjeong in the vicinity of Hongik University and a major business district has developed in this area.

You can find various restaurants and cultural places around every corner along the path from Hongik University Subway Station and Hapjeong Station to Sangsu Station. Among other places, you can enjoy a variety of exotic dishes at fine restaurants, shopping and movies at Mecenatpolis Mall, a complex shopping mall near Hapjeong Subway Station close to HCS.

**\* Places you can enjoy brunch or home meals in the morning around Hapjeong Subway Station**

#### 1 Brunch cafes in Mecenatpolis Mall



- McDonald, Slunch, London Tea and O'garden
- **Direction** : Via the underground passage at Exit 10 of Hapjeong Station Line 2

#### 2 Ediya Coffee's Hapjeong LIG branch



- **Menu** : Sandwich and coffee
- **Location** : In front of HCS's Post Adoption Service Center

#### 3 Hollys Coffe's Hapjeong branch



- **Menu** : Panini, sandwich, coffee
- **Location** : 50 meters away from Exit 7 of Hapjeong Subway Station

#### 4 Ribbon Window



- **Menu** : Morning set(panini and coffee)
- **Location** : 395-13, Seogyo-dong, Mapo-gu, Seoul

#### 5 Naeui Jageun Siktak(meaning 'my little table' in Korean)



- **Menu** : Sandwich and coffee
- **Location** : First floor, 381-22, Seogyo-dong, Mapo-gu, Seoul

#### 6 22sodermalm



- **Menu** : Swedish home meal
- **Location** : 403-22, Seogyo-dong, Mapo-gu, Seoul



### Hongdae area

The streets around Hongik University as known as hongdae area are famous for their youthful vitality among other areas in Seoul. You can enjoy shopping at Design Square on the first floor of KT&G Sangsang Madang, which offers souvenirs with unique and original designs.

You can also get immersed in the free-spirited fashion and culture of the streets leading from Sangsang Madang to the university. Hongdae playground across the university is transformed into an arena for indie bands' performance of hip hop, rock and jazz every weekend. You can also taste various dishes originated from countries around the world.

Written by\_Kwahk, So-min Public Relations Team

#### 1 Unique souvenir shop



- Design Square in KT&G Sangsang Madang
- **Location** : First floor of KT&G Sangsang Madang, 367-5, Seogyo-dong, Mapo-gu, Seoul

#### 2 Fancy Korean table D'hote restaurant



- Chawong-ga(Namulmeokneun Gom) (meaning 'greens-eating bear' in Korean)
- **Location** : 367-31, Seogyo-dong, Mapo-gu, Seoul

**Main Office**

**LIG Group's donation for medical costs of foster children and volunteer services**



LIG Group (CEO Nam, Yeong-u) agreed to continue social contribution projects with HCS on August 28 and made a donation for medical fees to help the development of foster children in Seoul and to support children with medical conditions. Prior to the delivery ceremony, LIG staff members volunteered to clean the playground of Holt Reception Center, spreading positive energy all around the place.

**HCS ceremony to disband of Holt overseas volunteers**



Holt overseas volunteer group of college students organized by HCS and sponsored by the Ministry of Security and Public Administration had a ceremony for disbanding on August 22. The 16 members of the group reported and evaluated their volunteer work in Cambodia from August 2 to 15.

**2014 Kumdongi Camp, a Project to Support Children's Dreams**

Kumdongi Camp was held in Mungyeong from July 31 to August 1 as a part of HCS's Dream Project that supports annual education fees of children from low-income families. The children in the camp had fun



playing in the water and riding horses. Sean (singer), a Holt ambassador, visited the camp to deliver a message of love, saying "The time we meet is the present and all of you are precious presents."

**Bethany and WACAP agencies Visit our Overseas Department**



Alison Adema in charge of Korean adoption program of Bethany Christian Services, a U.S. cooperative agency, and Beth Kido of World Association for Children and Parents visited HCS for a business negotiation to discuss Korea's revised overseas adoption process from June 29 to July 2. They also visited Seoul Family court, American Embassy and Mapo Clover to discuss pending issues.

**U.S. Overseas adoptees and their families visit**



More than 100 people who were adopted through HCS and grew up in the U.S. visited HCS to learn and experience Korean culture. Adoptees and their families had a meaningful time, visiting hospitals and Holt Ilsan Center. They received their adoption files and some reunited with their

biological parents and siblings. They also visited several cities in Korea, getting a better understanding and affection for Korea and building memories through historic site tours and Korean culture experiences.

**Successful fundraiser Bazaar**



Our Seoul Bazaar for "Supporting Single Mothers' Child Care" was held on May 30<sup>th</sup> with the help of many sponsoring companies, volunteers, and HCS staff, ended with great success. The funds will be spent to support single parents.

**Awards Ceremony for "Beautiful Happiness"**

Awards ceremony for the 2014 adoptive family picture-video contest : titled "Beautiful Happiness" was held on May 16. It was intended to improve society's perception towards domestic adoption and vigorously encourage it. Jang, Heui-yong from Busan won the grand prize in the picture contest and O, Chan-jeong from Incheon won in the video division.

**HCS Begins supporting needy families in Mongolia**



On April 29, HCS signed a business agreement with the office of Songino Khaikhan, Mongolia's representative concentration area for the destitute poor. HCS started programs to help prevent family disorganization of Mongolia's low-income families in April.

## HCS's Overseas Cooperation Division Meeting in Chicago



Head of Overseas Cooperation Division Yu, Deok-jin had a meeting on strengthening follow-up management of overseas adoption, renewed memorandums of understanding and discussed measures related to cooperative and reconignment agencies with representatives of five U.S. cooperative agencies at Sunny Ridge in Chicago from April 29 to 30. The above agencies agreed to actively cooperate on several concerned issues.

## Community News

### Voices of the Soul, Holt choir of disabled from Holt Ilsan Center, performed at Sorokdo Island(leper's Island)



In return for the love it received, Holt Voices of the Soul, the choir of Holt Ilsan Center, performed under the title of 'Companion, the Beautiful Encounter' at Sorokdo Central Baptist Church and Daedong Service Center in Daejeon from July 8 to 11. Many in the audience were moved to tears and greeted them with hearty cheers. It was another happy and meaningful moment for the choir.

### 50 year Memorial Service for Harry Holt-Founder of HCS

The service to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Harry Holt, founder of HCS, was held at Holt Ilsan



Center on April 28. We had time to remember the founder's spirits with Reverend Kim, Ju-hyeon's sermon themed 'I created these.' Park, Seong-il and Choi, Haeng-ju, a couple who moved out of Holt Ilsan Center and have managed a life of their own in the community, paid a mind-blowing tribute to Holt's 50 years of devotion for the disabled.

### Holt to operate Dalseo-gu Bolli Community Service Center in Daegu



Dalseo-gu Bolli Community Service Center in Daegu, held its opening ceremony on July 23, attended by about 200 guests representing Dalseo-gu and HCS along with local residents. Holt will operate Bolli Center which is funded by Dalseo-gu. The ceremony consisted of a ceremonial event and Voices of the Soul, the choir of Holt Ilsan Center, came all the way from Ilsan and gave a wonderful performance.

### Daegu Clover opened



Daegu Clover, a home for single mothers and their babies in Dalseo-gu, Daegu, opened on July 23. Single mothers can raise their babies until they are 24 months old. The home

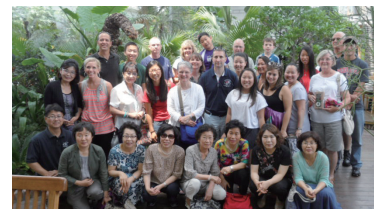
provides a comfortable and safe environment to raise babies and various services to help single mothers prepare for self-reliance and return to society in practical ways.

### Holt Psychological Therapy Center raised awareness of its projects at Seoul Dongbu District Office of Education



Holt Psychological Therapy Center was invited to the education program for improving capability of social workers working at middle and high schools affiliated with Seoul Dongbu District Office of Education. The event was a great opportunity to raise awareness of Holt's projects and related issues among social workers belonging to the agency.

### Adoptive families visit Daejeon Sponsorship Association



On June 30, 24 adoptive families from the U.S. had luncheon at Garden of Sky upon the invitation of Daejeon Sponsorship Association (President Choi, Jin-sil). As a gesture of gratitude for American adoptive families who visit Korea every year, the association presented organic soap and artificial silk blankets from Jeon, Wol-deuk, a member of the association. The adoptive families also delivered presents they carefully prepared to the members of the association. It was a meaningful time of sharing.



## Welcome to Holt Guest House

We are open to :  
 Adoptees and their families visiting  
 Korea Prospective adoptive parents  
 visiting Holt Overseas and domestic  
 pastors and missionaries sponsors and  
 staff from overseas cooperative agencies

### Payment(daily)

**Single** : ₩50,000 / **Double** : ₩60,000

**Twin** : ₩70,000 / **Family** : ₩110,000

**Triple** : ₩90,000

**Check in** : Anytime

**Check out** : Before 12:00noon

### Reservation(by phone or E-mail)

**Tel** : +82-2-6938-5500

**Fax** : +82-2-6938-5502

**Emergency Contract** : 010-3205-9680

**E-mail** : holtra@chol.com

**Address** : 388-19, Hapjeong Dong, Mapo-gu, Seoul, Korea  
 www.holttour.com



\*Holttour Team can also make a hotel reservation for you (Somerset, Ramada...)

**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.** +82-2-331-7075 / **e-mail** : sponsor@holt.or.kr

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

## Happy Journey 2014

Happy Journey 2014 is a motherland program for adoptees to walk and share their journey together with their companions to enhance their understanding for each other and Korean heritage.



- **When** November 9<sup>th</sup> ~ November 18<sup>th</sup> (10days)
- **Where** Grand Hilton Hotel (Seoul)
- **Who** Overseas adoptees with one companion (Spouse, partner, sibling or best friend)
- **Program** Calligraphy, City tour, Cruise Tour, Holt Ilsan Town, Korean Cooking, Gyeongbokgung Palace, Traditional performance, Root search, Trip to Jeju Island

## Happy Together 2014

“Happy Together 2014”, a Motherland camp for the Korean overseas adoptees with special needs and their family. We believe that “Happy Together 2014” will be an invaluable opportunity for both adoptees and adoptive families to know more about the Motherland with a support system through group activities and friendship, especially Korean domestic adoptive families.



- **When** October 29<sup>th</sup> ~ November 5<sup>th</sup> (8days)
- **Where** Grand Hilton Hotel (Seoul)
- **Who** Overseas adoptees with special needs & their adoptive family

\*There will be 1,000,000KRW reimbursement per person for their flight expense.

- **Program** Korean Cooking, National Museum of Korea, DMZ tour, Korean Village, Calligraphy, City tour, Traditional performance, Root search, Holt Ilsan town, Changdeokgung Palace, Cheong Wa Dae tour

- **Contact** Holt Post Adoption Services  
holtkorea@hotmail.com /  
www.postadoption.or.kr

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

One shy girl is now confident enough to make a presentation.  
Cambodia Holt Dream Center brought confidence to this  
child through education.

“Your support will make one child’s future bright”

