

ANNUAL REPORT 2004

FOREWORD

Dear readers,

2004 was the 12th year when I exercised my entire professional capacity in achieving Holt mission and the 3^d year as the executive country director of the foundation. My life changed significantly working daily so that those children in difficulty or their families going through a moment of crisis could be a little better. "Every child deserves a home of his own" is more than a child's fundamental right or a motto well known by everybody, it is our rationale to exist as an NGO.

I firmly state there still are a lot of things to be done to support children in Romania and Holt Romania Foundation, through the wonderful people who dedicated themselves to their work (the Board of Directors, employees, partners, collaborators, sponsors), still has many ways to reach.

I wish the year 2005, although alarming from the financial point of view and the external budgetary resources, to mark a turning point by accessing governmental funds and a hope for the development of NGOs in Romania.

*Livia Trif,
National Executive Director
Holt Romania - FCSSCF*

PRESENTATION OF THE ORGANIZATION

HOLT ROMANIA – FOUNDATION OF CONSULTANCY AND SOCIAL SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES is a non-governmental organization founded by HOLT INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S SERVICES, having more than 12 years of experience in child/family protection in Romania.

In 2004 HOLT ROMANIA – FOUNDATION OF CONSULTANCY AND SOCIAL SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES developed its activity at high standards at the **national head office** in **Constanta** and three branches in the country: **Bucharest** (Sector no. 1), **Iasi** and **Targu Mures** by professionally trained staff.



The **mission** of Holt organization is *to offer every child the chance to have his own family*.

We will achieve our mission by developing and implementing **services and social programs** which will contribute to:

- Maintaining children in their biological families where this is possible and safe, avoiding the abuse, neglect, exploitation, institutionalization, abandonment;
- Reintegrating to birth families institutionalized children when this is done in the child's best interest;
- Placing children eligible for adoption with Romanian adoptive families.

The **general objectives** of Holt organization are:

- Supporting children and their families to reduce risk factors of abuse, neglect, exploitation, institutionalization, abandonment;
- Promoting the child's rights to have his own family and to benefit of complex social services;
- Developing and implementing programs to support family preservation, domestic adoption and parent education;
- Developing training programs and technical assistance, seminars, conferences, as well as other activities whose goals are developing and strengthening the capacity of local authorities, non-governmental organizations, as well as the local communities to offer professional social services in child protection;
- Collaborating with Romanian and foreign entities which develop social services for children and families and developing effective partnerships.

In achieving the objectives and Holt mission, 2004 was a year as good as the previous one, which in simple figures would mean:

- ✍ **51 children placed with adoptive families**
- ✍ **41 children returned to birth families**
- ✍ **897 children remained in birth families.**

The wonderful **team of permanent employees** in our foundation, the ones who got directly involved, devoting their time, knowledge, energy, dedication and enthusiasm, achieving the 2004 objectives, are the following:

Constanta national head office:

- ✍ **Livia Trif**, national executive director
- ✍ **Nina Negutu**, Constanta site director
- ✍ **Carmen Alexe**, chief accountant
- ✍ **Ioana Ionescu**, grant writer/fund raiser/public relations
- ✍ **Ionelia Popescu**, administrative assistant
- ✍ **Loredana Turiceanu**, social worker on “domestic adoption” and “parent education” programs
- ✍ **Cristina Albu**, social worker on “crisis intervention” and “parent education” programs
- ✍ **Despina Cucu-Iane**, social worker on “crisis intervention” and “parent education” programs
- ✍ **Ludovic Fraico**, psychologist on “domestic adoption” program
- ✍ **Margareta Marin**, social worker on “crisis intervention” and “parent education” programs - Medgidia
- ✍ **Steliana Alexandru**, social worker on “crisis intervention” and “parent education” programs - Medgidia
- ✍ **Ion Rusa**, driver

Bucharest branch:

- ✍ **Iuliana Ghidu**, branch director
- ✍ **Cristina Chitu/Lavinia Leca**, accountant/administrative assistant
- ✍ **Marina Gheorghiu**, social worker on Center for Mother and Child and “parent education” programs
- ✍ **Andreea Marcu**, social worker on Center for Mother and Child and “parent education” programs
- ✍ **Viorica Dragomir/Bianca Rotaru**, social worker on “crisis intervention” and “parent education” programs
- ✍ **Mirela Nicolae**, social worker on “domestic adoption” program
- ✍ **Dana Volintiru**, psychologist on “domestic adoption” program
- ✍ **Constantin Angheloiu/Florian Radacina**, driver

Mures branch:

- ✍ **Elisabeta Buscu**, branch director
- ✍ **Bianca Stefan**, accountant/administrative assistant
- ✍ **Ada Gabor**, social worker on “domestic adoption” and “parent education” programs
- ✍ **Alina Fichtel**, social worker on “crisis intervention” and “parent education” programs
- ✍ **Simona Stoica**, social worker on “crisis intervention” and “parent education” programs
- ✍ **Simona Colceriu**, social worker on “long-term foster care for siblings”
- ✍ **Gabriel Feier**, driver

Iasi branch:

- ✍ **Stefan Cojocaru**, branch director
- ✍ **Catalin Vasiliu**, accountant/administrative assistant
- ✍ **Iulia Zagan**, social worker on “crisis intervention” and “parent education” programs
- ✍ **Diana Tabusca**, social worker on “domestic adoption” and “parent education” programs
- ✍ **Mocanu Elena**, social worker on “crisis intervention” and “parent education” programs
- ✍ **Alis Ghebuta**, social worker on “crisis intervention” and “parent education” programs
- ✍ **Luiss Trifan**, driver

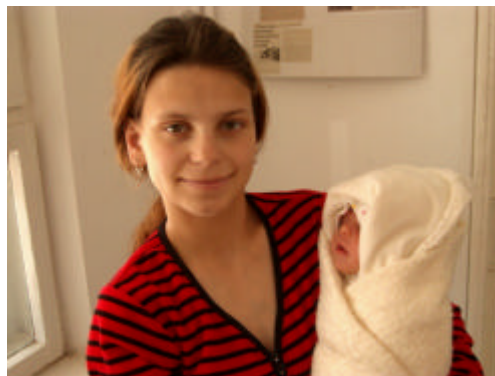
PROGRAMS DEVELOPED

1. PREVENTION OF CHILD ABUSE, NEGLECT, EXPLOITATION, INSTITUTIONALIZATION, ABANDONMENT AND FAMILY PRESERVATION THROUGH CRISIS INTERVENTION

Program financed by Holt International Children's Services

Services offered:

- Counseling;
- Information (legislation, family planning, health and child care education);
- Moral support;
- Financial aid;
- Alternative solutions to overcome the crisis;
- Alternative solutions regarding the child's future;
- Identification of community resources.



Children and families Holt Foundation works with

Outcomes

In 2004 we offered services to a number of:

- ✍ **91 children left in hospitals/institutionalized** (maternities, paediatric wards)
- ✍ **1237 children at risk of abuse, neglect, exploitation, institutionalization, abandonment**
- ✍ **67 families** for reintegration
- ✍ **808 families** for family preservation
- ✍ **14 pregnant women**, beneficiaries of counseling

On this program Holt social workers wrote **sponsorship reports** for **395 children**.

2. HOLT CENTER FOR MOTHER AND CHILD

inside the Social Services Complex “**Saint Ecaterina**” in Bucharest Sector no.1
Program financed by Holt International Children’s Services

Services offered:

- ? shelter;
- ? moral support;
- ? financial aid;
- ? educational and infant care counseling;
- ? psychological support;
- ? professional training for mothers;
- ? socializing strategies;
- ? juridical assistance in establishing the child’s fatherhood.

Outcomes

In 2004 we offered services to a number of:

- ✍ **46 children** in the Center for Mother and Child Bucharest
- ✍ **34 mothers** sheltered in the Center for Mother and Child Bucharest

On **December 1st 2004** the **Center for Mother and Child Bucharest** of Holt Romania – FCSSCF (Maternal Center) inside the Social Services Complex “**Saint Ecaterina**” was totally transferred to the General Directorate of Social Assistance and Child Protection Bucharest Sector no. 1 which took over both the existing equipment, as well as its specialized staff.



One mother beneficiary of Shelter in Bucharest

3. DOMESTIC ADOPTION

Program financed by Holt International Children's Services and World Learning through ChildNet Program.

Services offered:

- Identification, evaluation and preparing families who want to adopt a child;
- Identification, evaluation and preparing children eligible for adoption;
- Complex assistance of families to achieve the adoption and during the post-placement period;
- Training for specialists in the field.



Adoptive families and adopted children with Holt Foundation support

Outcomes

In 2004 we offered specific services on the program to a number of **54 children eligible** for adoption and **110 adoptive families**.

On **October 1st, 2004**, “**Domestic adoption**” project, financed by **World Learning** through **ChildNet** program, started to develop simultaneously in 12 counties (4 basic counties: Constanta, Iasi, Mures and Bucharest and other 8 counties: Braila, Ialomita, Suceava, Bacau, Dambovita, Giurgiu, Alba and Covasna) for 18 months. From October till December 2004 the following notable activities took place:

- ✍ Developing 4 press conferences to promote the project and the “domestic adoption” program



Constanta



Targoviste



Targu Mures



Iasi

✍ Training session for specialists of the Directorates for Social Assistance/Child Protection in the 12 counties



The participants



The trainers



Photos taken during the training session November 23-26, 2004

4. PARENT EDUCATION

Program financed by Holt International Children's Services, UNICEF Representative in Romania, World Learning through the ChildNet Program, Rotary International Foundation.

The program **components** lead to strengthen families through gaining parent skills:

1. Direct services addressing parents:
 - Pregnancy Counseling (before the moment of birth)
 - Welcome Baby (at the moment of birth)
 - Courses for parents "How to become better parents" (after the moment of birth)
2. Theoretical and practical training

Outcomes

In 2004:

✍ **137 children** and **92 families** participated at **Special Events** organized on the occasion of the 8th of March, Easter Holidays, June 1st - International Child's Day and Christmas;



June 1st, International Child's Day

✍ **1602 children** and **1551 mothers** benefited of the **Welcome Baby** component in the Maternities of Medgidia, Iasi, Constanta, Targu Mures and Bucharest. Mothers who just delivered received the visit of a Holt specialist, they had a first discussion about the challenging role of being a parent and were offered a gift.



Welcome Baby

✍ **560 parents** participated at the parent education courses **How To Become Better Parents**. The Holt curriculum is structured into 11 sessions, the parents going through learning the way to take care of themselves, treating stress and fury, communication skills, positive discipline and treating demanding behaviors. By the parents' participation at these courses a number of **1214 children** were impacted.



Courses "How To Become Better Parents"



The playroom

✍ **236 parents** participated at **Meetings with various Specialists**, a number of **564 children** being impacted.



Meeting with a Specialist

✍ **40 representatives** of the local authorities involved in Child Protection in the Counties of Braila, Salaj, Giurgiu and Suceava were theoretically and practically trained.



UNICEF Conference October 2003



TOT Braila

The **projects** developed in 2004 on this program were the following:

1. "Parent Education" financed by Holt International Children's Service as a component of Family Preservation project;
2. "How to Become Better Parents for Our Child with Disabilities" financed by World Learning through the ChildNet Program;
3. "Strengthening Families in Romania" financed by Rotary International Foundation;
4. "Promoting Parent Education by Developing Parent Resource Centers" in the Counties of Braila, Salaj, Giurgiu and Suceava, financed by UNICEF Representative in Romania.

5. LONG-TERM FOSTER CARE FOR GROUPS OF SIBLINGS

Program financed by LilFT Foundation, CA, U.S.A.

Services offered:

- permanent assistance during the whole placement period consisting of information and counseling;
- supervising the child placement in the foster family and their evolution during the whole placement period;
- monthly financial aid for the foster families to assure the best conditions for the children in the program;
- supplementary support: furniture, clothes, transportation, medical assistance for children;
- supporting children with tutors at the subjects they are poor at;
- assistance and special counseling for all children in the program.

Outcomes

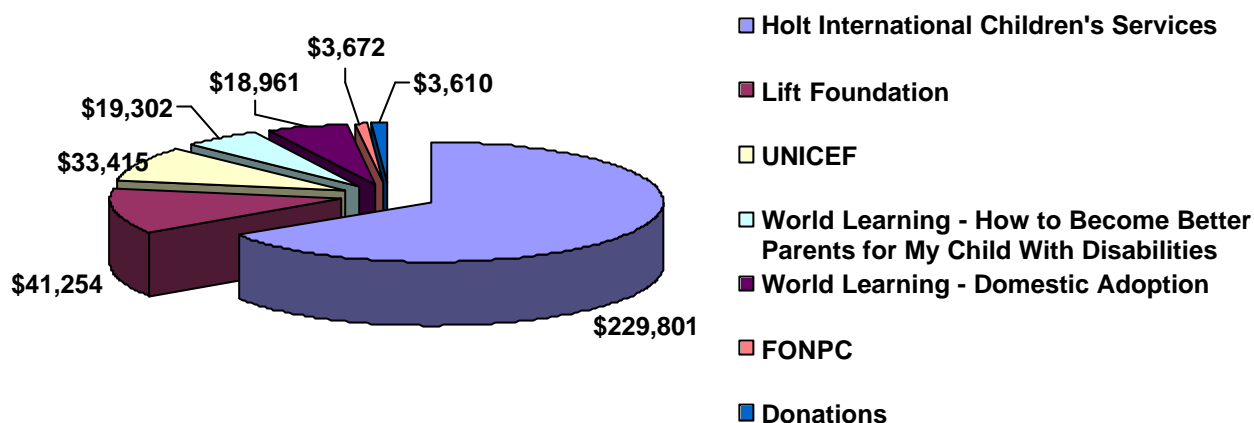
In 2004 we offered services to a number of **16 children** and **9 families**.



Christmas 2004 together with the groups of siblings in the Lift program

BUDGET

In 2004 Holt Romania – Foundation of Consultancy and Social Services for Children and Families had a total budget of **USD 346.405**, the main sponsor being Holt International Children's Services, Eugene, Oregon, USA, which is also its founding member.



NOTABLE ACTIVITIES

- On February 11, 2004 there was the official opening of the **Parent Resource Center in Targu Mures**, its founding and equipping being part of a project financed by FONPC.
- On March 19, 2004 there took place the official opening of the **Parent Resource Center in Medgidia** to which The Local Council of Medgidia was assigned a new space.
- On the same occasion of International Child's Day, **June 1st 2004**, Holt Romania – **Mures Branch**, in collaboration with the School Inspectorate of Mures County, organized on May 27th a sale exhibition of icons painted on glass. Pupils attending schools in Mures County painted these icons. This *fund-raising* event called "Children for Children", whose goal was to purchase toys and sweets for children assisted by Holt Romania – Mures Branch summed up 8.050.000 lei (250 USD).



May 27, 2004 Mures – Sale Exhibition of Icons Painted on Glass



- On the occasion of International Child's Day, **June 1st 2004**, the team of Holt Romania Foundation organized in **Constanta** the special event called "Together for Children" whose goal

was *raising funds* for children coming from poor families in this county, assisted by the organization. This action took place on May 31st, 2004 inside Hotel Savoy – Mamaia. The total sum raised was of 28.200.000 lei (850USD) from which we bought toys and sweets for 40 children to enjoy the holiday spirit.



May 31st, 2004 – Hotel Savoy, Mamaia



Toys – June 1st, 2004

- Between July 5 and 16, 2004 there took place in Iasi the School Summer in Social Work organized by Close to You, "Al.I.Cuza" University - Department of Sociology and Social Work, **Holt Romania – FCSCF** and the Directorate of Social Assistance Iasi in partnership with Planned Parenthood (USA) and ENSP Rennes (France).

On **CHRISTMAS 2004**, **Holt Romania** team offered presents to children assisted through the sponsorship/crisis intervention program following a fund-raising campaign "To Support Our Children" organized in this period. Due to some wonderful people in Constanta community we raised 44.400.000 lei (1.530 USD). The poor children enjoyed receiving some unexpected gifts on Christmas Eve. Parties were organized around the Christmas Tree both in Constanta and in the other Holt branches.



Christmas Party - Medgidia



Christmas Party - Iasi

PARTNERS AND SPONSORS

1. Partners

- ✍ General Directorates of Social Assistance/Child Protection Constanta, Iasi, Mures, Bucharest, Braila, Ialomita, Suceava, Bacau, Dambovitza, Giurgiu, Alba and Covasna
- ✍ "Close to You" Foundation
- ✍ County Hospital Constanta
- ✍ Municipal Hospital of Medgidia
- ✍ Local Council of Medgidia
- ✍ Cuza Voda Maternity, Iasi
- ✍ Elena Doamna Maternity, Iasi
- ✍ "Al.I. Cuza" University, Iasi
- ✍ School Inspectorate of Mures County
- ✍ County Hospital Mures
- ✍ "Si Tu" Foundation
- ✍ ASCHF Romania Day Center Aurora Bucharest
- ✍ Maria Foundation Tg. Mures
- ✍ Star of Hope Foundation Iasi
- ✍ School Inspectorate of Iasi County
- ✍ Local Council of Popricani Commune, Iasi County
- ✍ Local Council of Holboca Commune, Iasi County
- ✍ Local Council of Tomesti Commune, Iasi County
- ✍ Directorate of Public Health Iasi
- ✍ "Maternus" Maternal Center Iasi
- ✍ "Princhindel" day Center
- ✍ Children on The Edge
- ✍ Blijdorp Organization Suceava
- ✍ Local Council of Lazu Commune, Constanta County
- ✍ Local Council of Agigea Commune, Constanta County
- ✍ "Fair Play" Association Constanta
- ✍ Local Council of Cumpăna Commune, Constanta County
- ✍ Local Council of Cobadin Commune, Constanta County
- ✍ Local Council of Castelu Commune, Constanta County
- ✍ Local Council of Corbu Commune, Constanta County

2. Permanent sponsors

- ✍ Stefanescu Sorin – S.C. Toni's Trade S.R.L. Constanta
- ✍ S.C. Costheva S.R.L. Constanta
- ✍ RDS Link

3. Occasional sponsors

- ✍ Jack Williams – S.C.S.T. Constanta
- ✍ Rompetrol Rafinare S.A. Constanta
- ✍ S.C. Silvan S.R.L. Constanta
- ✍ S.C. Coca Cola Romania S.R.L. Constanta
- ✍ Seebrig Constanta
- ✍ Calenic Ion
- ✍ Congaz S.R.L. Constanta
- ✍ Rotary Club Pontus Euxinus Constanta
- ✍ Nicolau Horatiu
- ✍ Markoulakis Prodromos
- ✍ Sportin Foundation

✍ Sassu Dorin
✍ Bianu Felicia
✍ Enache Daniel
✍ Munteanu Ana-Maria
✍ Tudor Elena
✍ Munteanu Eugenia
✍ Nicolaescu Adrian
✍ S.C. Mira Art S.R.L. Medgidia
✍ Staicu Margareta

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The board of directors of our organization is made up of a representative from each region where we develop our activity and the executive national director of the foundation:

1. NICOLAESCU ADRIAN – VIOREL – president, consulting legal expert at COMPRESUTIL, A&D – member of Rotary Club Constanta
2. MIFTODE VASILE – member, professor at “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University Iasi
3. PINTILIE MIRCEA – member, engineer, mayor of Medgidia town
4. MAKSAI ATTILA – member, businessman in Targu Mures, HOLT adoptive parent
5. TRIF LIVIA – member, executive national director

Holt Romania Foundation – Iasi Branch
Case Story March 2004

A Child Soul

A masculine voice, grave and furious is heard...

“What are we doing now? You know we can hardly face the difficulties we already have. We don’t have the money ...I can’t believe it’s real, it’s happening to us...I don’t want another child!” Torrents of reproaches, hard words... tense atmosphere... strong feelings and emotions...



An answer hears after a long time – a feminine voice, timid and warm: *“I think we are both responsible for what happened. It’s truth that our financial situation isn’t good... In spite of all this, I want this child ... and ... I’m gonna keep it, even if it breaks us apart...I don’t wish this to happen, but if this is the only way... I want Bogdan to have a brother or a sister! Think about the joy it will bring!*

In a hostel, in a small room, with modest furniture, two parents decide the fate of an unborn child.... Or, they try at least. They are scared of the unforeseen situation, worried for tomorrow, under the burden of difficulties and sad because they couldn’t change this world... They are two young parents who do their best through life, and who try to lay a good way.

The inquired looks, the eyes in tears, two hearts which beat together...It is hard to make any decision ... None of them has the courage to assume responsibility for a new destiny.
SILENCE...minutes become centuries and time stops now....

Somewhere in the unknown, unseen world, a soul child hears this conversation... How huge is its sadness to be convicted before even being born! And, how much this disappointment hurts because it couldn’t be a joy! It is found in a perfect communion with the Universe, the unborn soul child asks for its right to life... An unborn soul child fights in its parents’ soul...

In the small room, the parents lost courage to look at each other. Still, after a time, those two grown-ups stand up and step over without saying anything and embrace each other. The both cry and at the same time, they say: *“We will have a child!”* They smile among tears.

The girl with black eyes is Cristina. She already is 4 months old, she is a spoiled little girl, surrounded by love. It’s true that her parents make enormous efforts to assure all she needs for a beautiful childhood. But all these difficulties are rewarded by the immense HAPPINESS that fills their soul, happiness gifted by a child soul.



Within Crisis Intervention Program of Holt Romania Foundation, this family received emotional support and financial help to maintain the child within the biological family.

**Elena Mocanu,
Social worker**