

WHO ARE WE?

HOLT ROMANIA – FOUNDATION OF CONSULTANCY AND SOCIAL SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES (FCSSCF) is a nongovernmental organization founded by HOLT INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S SERVICES and has an experience of more than 14 years in child and family protection in Romania.

In 2005 HOLT ROMANIA developed its activity at high professional standards in the **national headquarters** in **Constanta**, in **two sites** in **Iasi** and **Tg. Mures** and in **three work offices**: **Bucuresti** (Sector 1), **Medgidia** and **Sighisoara**, with well-trained professional staff.



Holt Romania's **mission** is **to offer every child the chance to have a family of his own.**

Our mission is accomplished by developing and implementing **social services** aimed at:

- ? Maintaining children in their biological families, when it is possible and safe, with a view to avoid abuse, neglect, institutionalization and abandonment;
- ? Family reintegration of institutionalized children when this is done to the superior interest of the child;
- ? Placement of children eligible for adoption in Romanian adoptive families.

The general objectives of Holt Romania are:

- ? To support children and their families in order to reduce risk of abuse, neglect, exploitation, institutionalization, abandonment;
- ? To promote the right of the child to have a family of his own and to benefit from complex social services;
- ? To develop and implement programs aimed at maintaining the family unit, domestic adoption and parent education;
- ? To develop training and technical support programs, seminars, conferences and other activities with the purpose to develop and strengthen and empower local authorities, nongovernmental organizations and local communities to offer professional social services in child protection;
- ? To cooperate with Romanian and foreign organizations developing social services for children and families and to establish effective partnerships.

The social services provided by our organization in 2005 had the following results:

- ✍ **12 children were placed for adoption**
- ✍ **29 children were reunited with their biological families**
- ✍ **715 children remained in their biological families**

The wonderful **team** of **permanent staff** employed with our organization, those who have unconditionally dedicated their time, knowledge, enthusiasm and energy to achieving the 2005 objectives, consists of the following people:

Constanta national headquarters, and **Medgidia work office**:

- ✍ **Livia Trif**, Executive Country Director
- ✍ **Nina Negutu**, Social Work Supervisor

- ✍ **Carmen Alexe**, Chief Accountant
- ✍ **Ludovic Fraico**, Psychologist/Resource Coordinator
- ✍ **Ionelia Popescu**, Office Assistant
- ✍ **Loredana Turiceanu**, Social Worker in the «Domestic Adoption » and «Parent Education » programs
- ✍ **Cristina Albu**, Social Worker in the « Crisis Intervention » and « Parent Education » programs
- ✍ **Margareta Marin**, Social Worker in the « Crisis Intervention » and « Parent Education » programs - Medgidia
- ✍ **Steliana Alexandru**, Social Worker in the « Crisis Intervention » and « Parent Education » programs - Medgidia
- ✍ **Ion Rusa**, driver

Mures site and Sighisoara work office:

- ✍ **Elisabeta Buscu**, Site Director
- ✍ **Bianca Stefan**, Accountant/Office Assistant/Social Worker
- ✍ **Ada Gabor**, Social Worker in the « Domestic Adoption » and « Parent Education » programs
- ✍ **Alina Fichtel**, Social Worker in the « Crisis Intervention » and « Parent Education » programs
- ✍ **Cristina Andreica**, Social Worker in the « Crisis Intervention » and « Parent Education » programs
- ✍ **Melinda Kalman**, Social Worker in the « Crisis Intervention » and « Parent Education » programs
- ✍ **Georgeta Salanta**, Social Worker in the « Crisis Intervention » and « Parent Education » programs
- ✍ **Simona Colceriu**, Social worker in the «Long Term Foster Care for Groups of Siblings » program

Iasi site:

- ✍ **Stefan Cojocar** – Site Director
- ✍ **Vasiliu Catalin** - Accountant/Office Assistant
- ✍ **Mocanu Elena** – Social Worker in the « Crisis Intervention » and « Parent Education » programs
- ✍ **Dumitriu Diana Alexandra** - Social Worker in the « Domestic Adoption » and « Parent Education » programs
- ✍ **Zagan Iuliana Odeta** - Social Worker in the « Crisis Intervention » and « Parent Education » programs
- ✍ **Guzu Claudia Simona** - Social Worker in the «Crisis Intervention » and «Parent Education » programs
- ✍ **Ghebuta Alis Isabela** - Psychologist (part time) in the « Domestic Adoption » program
- ✍ **Filipescu Ruxandra** – Psychologist, in the UNICEF program in cooperation with the Iasi Directorate for Social Assistance and Child Protection
- ✍ **Chiriac Mihaela** – Psychologist, in the UNICEF program in cooperation with the Iasi Directorate for Social Assistance and Child Protection
- ✍ **Diaconescu Anca** – Social Worker in the UNICEF program in cooperation with the Iasi Directorate for Social Assistance and Child Protection
- ✍ **Doncila Petronela** – Social Worker in the UNICEF program in cooperation with the Iasi Directorate for Social Assistance and Child Protection
- ✍ **Patras - Donose Smaranda** - in the UNICEF program in cooperation with the Iasi Directorate for Social Assistance and Child Protection

Bucuresti work office:

- ✍ **Mirela Nicolae**, Social Worker in the « Domestic Adoption » program
- ✍ **Dana Volintiru Scrieciu**, Psychologist in the « Domestic Adoption » program

DEVELOPED PROGRAMS

1. PREVENTION OF ABUSE, NEGLECT, EXPLOITATION, INSTITUTIONALIZATION, ABANDONMENT AND MAINTAINING THE FAMILY UNIT BY CRISIS INTERVENTION

Program financed entirely by Holt International Children's Services

Services provided

- ? Counseling;
- ? Information (on legislation, family planning, health education, child care and upbringing);
- ? Moral support;
- ? Material aid;
- ? Alternative solutions to surpass the crisis situation;
- ? Alternative solutions regarding the child's future;
- ? Identifying and accessing community resources.

Achieved results

In 2005 services were provided to a number of:

- ✍ **64 children** institutionalized/abandoned in hospitals (maternity sections or pediatrics sections)
- ✍ **1052 children** at risk of abuse, neglect, exploitation, institutionalization, abandonment
- ✍ **54 families** with a view of reintegration
- ✍ **670 families** counseled to keep the family unit
- ✍ **3 pregnant women** counseled
- ✍ **1131 families** assisted financially

The Holt Romania social workers made **sponsorship reports** for **470 children** under this program.



Children and families assisted by Holt Romania

2. DOMESTIC ADOPTION

Program financed by Holt International Children's Services
and World Learning, by ChildNet Program, DOMESTIC ADOPTION Project

Services provided

- ? Identification, evaluation and preparation of families willing to adopt a child;
- ? Identification, evaluation and preparation of children eligible for adoption;
- ? Complex pre-adoption and post-placement assistance for families;
- ? Training for domestic adoption specialists;
- ? Training and counseling of adoptive parents with a view to found Adoptive Parents Associations.



Constanta



Constanta



Mures



Iasi

Adoptive families and children adopted through Holt Romania

Achieved results

In 2005, **47 children eligible for adoption** and **92 adoptive families** benefited from specific services under this program.

In 2005 the "Domestic Adoption" project continued, financed by **World Learning**, through the **ChildNet** program, and developed in 12 counties in the country (4 core counties: Constanta, Iasi, Mures and Bucharest and other 8 target counties: Braila, Buzau, Suceava, Bacau, Dambovita, Giurgiu, Alba and Covasna). The duration of the project was 18 months. In 2005 the following notable activities were developed:

- ✍ Preparing and developing pre-adoption services in the 12 counties involved in the project
- ✍ Developing a continuum of services characteristic of domestic adoption
- ✍ Preparing and developing post-adoption services in the 12 counties involved in the project
- ✍ Recruiting and selecting families to initiate the 12 support groups, one in each county and selecting adoptive parents to attend the training sessions
- ✍ Developing and carrying out 4 classes for adoptive parents in order to establish Adoptive Parents Associations, one class in each core county
- ✍ Action was taken to establish the 12 Adoptive Parents Associations
- ✍ Meetings and activities specific of Adoptive Parents Associations
- ✍ Two monitoring visits in the 8 replication counties
- ✍ Quarterly project evaluations and evaluation of the Adoptive Parents Associations activities



Constanta



Iasi



Bucuresti



Mures

Once the new legislation on domestic adoption came into force on January 1st, 2005, the process registered an obvious drawback, especially from the point of view of cases finalized with a Court's Decision. Although there are still many abandoned children, very few of them have become eligible for adoption due to a very complex child evaluation process. It is for the first time in Romania when the number of families willing to adopt has been greater than the number of children declared eligible for adoption. It is absolutely necessary to resize the communication and close cooperation between all parties involved in declaring a child eligible for adoption in order to make the process smoother and more fluid.

3. PROMOTING PARENT EDUCATION BY DEVELOPING PARENT RESOURCE CENTERS

Program financed by Holt International Children's Services and UNICEF Romania.

In 2005 the **project: "Promoting parent education by developing Parent Resource Centers »** developed under this program in the counties of Ialomita, Prahova, Bacau and Bistrita, financed by UNICEF Romania.

The components of the project led to the strengthening of families by developing parent skills through:

1. Direct services for parents:
 - ? Pregnancy counseling (before birth)
 - ? Welcome Baby (at birth)
 - ? "How to Become Better Parents" classes (after birth)
2. Theoretical and practical training

Achieved results

- ? **4 press conferences** were organized to promote the project and the parent education program.



Iasi –Bacau



Mures - Bistrita



Constanta – Ialomita



Constanta – Prahova

✍ **190 children and 161 parents** participated in **8 Special Events** organized on the occasion of March 8 – Mother's Day, Easter, International Child's Day, Beginning of a New School Year and Christmas;



June 1st – Cumpana



June 1st - Medgidia



June 1st - Mures



June 1st - Iasi

? **1051 children** and **598 mothers** benefited from the **Welcome Baby** component in the maternities of Medgidia, Iasi, Constanta, Targu Mures, Bucuresti, Bistrita, Slobozia, Ploiesti, and Bacau. The new mothers were visited by a Holt specialist, had a first discussion of the challenges of being a parent and received a special bag with informational and educational materials and clothes for the child.



WELCOME BABY component

✍ **83 parents** participated in the parent education classes «How to Become Better Parents ». Based on the Holt curricula, each class was structured in 11 sessions, during which the parents passed from learning how to take care of themselves, dealing with stress and anger and communication skills, to positive discipline, and handling challenging behavior. **185 children** were impacted by these classes.



Cumpana



Medgidia



Parent
education
classes

Mures

Iasi



Bistrita

Ialomita



Bacau



Prahova

✍ **70 parents** participated in **8 Meetings with Specialists** and **172 children** were impacted.

✍ **40 representatives of the local authorities** involved in Child Protection were theoretically and practically trained in the counties of Ialomita, Prahova, Bacau, and Bistrita.



Mures



Iasi



Medgidia

Training of Trainers

Cumpana

4. LONG TERM FOSTER CARE FOR GROUPS OF SIBLINGS

Program financed by LIFT THE CHILDREN FOUNDATION, CA, USA

Services provided

- ? permanent assistance throughout the placement consisting in information and counseling;
- ? supervision of children placed in the temporary families and of their evolution throughout the placement;
- ? monthly financial support for the foster families in order to ensure the best conditions for the children in placement;
- ? additional support: furniture, clothing, transport, medical care for children;
- ? supporting children with private tutors for the subjects they have difficulties in;
- ? specialized assistance and counseling for all children in the program.

The program is developing only in the Mures County and the entire activity is coordinated by a Holt Romania social worker located in Sighisoara, where the most children and families are.

Achieved results:

In 2005 **14 children** and **6 families** benefited from specific services under this program.



June 2005 together with the groups of siblings

The children had a favorable evolution this year, too. Matei graduated from high school and started University in Cluj together with his older sister. Following difficulties in the foster families and problems caused by adolescence, the problem of moving the children in group homes was seriously considered starting with the second half of 2005. This procedure will be achieved in 2006.

5. DEVELOPING INTEGRATED SOCIAL SERVICES BASED ON APPRECIATIVE METHODS IN THE IASI COUNTY

Project financed by UNICEF Romania.

Component 1: Monitoring and improving foster care services in rural area is aimed at improving the quality of foster care services in the rural area of Iasi county, as well as evaluation, monitoring and placement intervention in foster care, development of a unitary monitoring system and of a community intervention methodology by involving and empowering the community social worker.

Objectives

1. to evaluate the activity of the professional maternal assistants activating in the rural area of the Iasi County
2. to improve the activity of professional maternal assistants in the rural area and to support them in developing their own professional identity
3. to apply appreciative principles in developing maternal assistance services for children at risk
4. to develop a unitary methodology in working with maternal assistants and preparing community social workers for the monitoring and evaluation of the quality of services provided by maternal assistants

5. to experiment group interventions and community interventions in order to improve the quality of services provided for children in foster care

Achieved results

- ? Evaluation of 540 placements in foster care in the rural area
- ? Organizing 52 support groups for maternal assistants in which 626 maternal assistants participated
- ? Developing a model of social services contracting by NGOs



Component 2: Experimenting integrated social services to prevent abandonment and institutionalization by involving the local community – it is aimed at optimizing the way the local authorities manage the decentralization of responsibilities in the social care field and become involved in developing integrated services focused on families and children, on developing, supporting and involving community support groups, on involving community medical assistants in providing integrated community services, on establishing a unitary evaluation scale of the risk of child abandonment, on applying appreciative methods in community intervention.

Objectives

1. To prepare community social workers and community medical assistants with a view to optimize their abilities to evaluate the community needs and to mobilize existing community resources, to identify resources to solve assisted cases (solving the crisis situation of the assisted family), to improve their knowledge in order to establish the most effective community intervention strategies
2. To support local councils in their mission to prevent poverty and social exclusion with a view to improve living conditions for adults and children at risk
3. To develop parent skills in parents with little education and confronted with problems and risk of child abandonment in order to prevent child abandonment, abuse and work exploitation.

Achieved results

- a) Facilitation of access to social services provided by local communities for the indirect beneficiaries of the project.
- b) Improvement of implementation of social care legislation by people responsible for this aspect employed with the local councils.
- c) Development of 5 community support groups involved in identifying local solutions for families at risk in the following villages: **Dobrovat, Belcesti, Lungani, Scobinti and Raducaneni.**
- d) Experimenting of the evaluation scale for child abandonment risk and employing this scale in standard activities.
- e) Creation of premises for integrated community services in order to prevent child abandonment and institutionalization.

- f) Development of parent skills in **150 parents** from the **5 villages** in order to prevent abandonment, child abuse and work exploitation.

6. WITH 1% TODAY I WILL BE 100% SUCCESSFUL TOMORROW !

Project financed by the Association for Community Relations through the co financing program « All for one, one percent for all »

Services provided

- ? Informational sessions for the public in order to raise awareness on the possibility to redirect 1% of the income tax to a non-profit organization, as well as on the mission and activities of Holt Romania Foundation (by means of the local media : 3 press conferences, interviews on the local radio and TV stations, press releases and leaflets distributed by volunteers and information replicators);
- ? Informational sessions for tax payers from the most important companies in order to raise awareness on the possibility to redirect 1% of the income tax;

The activities of the project were developed in the counties of Constanta, Iasi and Mures. Following our information campaign the public was correctly informed on the achievements of Holt Romania Foundation and on their legal right to support the activity of a non-profit entity by redirecting part of their income tax.



1% campaign initiated in Constanta



1% campaign in Iasi



1% campaign in Mures

7. VOLUNTEERS ACADEMY

Project financed by the National Authority for Youth Initiative Support (ANSIT) through the program « Youth Community Initiative – 2005 »

Services provided

- ? Training a number of 50 volunteers from 10 NGOs in Constanta on the occasion of the Volunteers Forum. The following issues were approached: Civic Organizational Behavior,

Intercultural Communication, Optimization through Communication, Role and Importance of Support Groups, Peer Education and European Volunteering;

- ? Organizing an NGO Fair where 10 NGOs from Constanta presented their offer of community services;
- ? Organizing a Volunteers Ball and rewarding the most committed volunteers in Constanta.

The activities of the project involved a great number of nongovernmental organizations, their beneficiaries, volunteers and citizens of the city of Constanta. The project represented in the first place a way to educate the population on civic participation and involvement.



Volunteers Forum



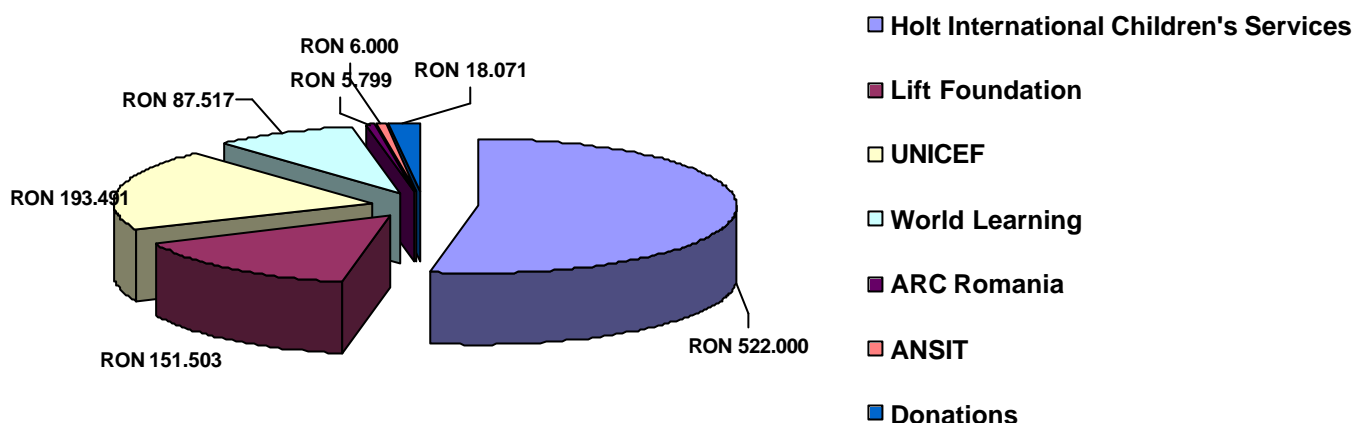
NGO Fair



Volunteers Ball

BUDGET

For the year 2005 Holt Romania Foundation had a **total budget** of **9,843,802,500 ROL (984,380.25 RON)**, the main financier being Holt International Children's Services, Eugene, Oregon, SUA, which is also our founding member.



OTHER NOTABLE ACTIVITIES

- ? By Decision no.5 of November 29, 2005 of the Commission for Accreditation of Social Services Providers in Constanta, Holt Romania – FCSSCF was accredited as a provider of the following social services:

1. Parents and Children Counseling and Support Center:

- Social counseling,
- Information,
- Psychological counseling for children and families,
- Legal counseling.

2. Center for Domestic Adoption Services:

- Social evaluation,
- Information,
- Psychological evaluation,
- Psych-social counseling,
- Monitoring,
- Pre and post adoption services,
- Legal counseling.

The accreditation was issued by the Direction for Labor, Social Solidarity and Family in Constanta, according to stipulations of art. 12, paragraph 2 of Annex 2 of the Government's Decision no. 1024/2004.

- ? By decision no.17 of December 19, 2005 of the Commission for Accreditation of Social Services Providers in Tg Mures, Holt Romania – FCSSCF, Mures site, was accredited as a provider of the following social services:

1. Center for Domestic Adoption Services:

- Social evaluation,
- Information,
- Psychological evaluation,
- Psych-social counseling,
- Monitoring,
- Pre and post adoption services,
- Legal counseling.

2. Parents and Children Counseling and Support Center:

- Social counseling,
- Information,
- Psychological counseling for children and families,
- Legal counseling.

3. Maternal Assistance/Foster Care Center :

- Family care and assistance,
- Education,
- Socializing.

The accreditation was issued by the Direction for Labor, Social Solidarity and Family in Mures, according to stipulations of art. 12, paragraph 2 of Annex 2 of the Government's Decision no. 1024/2004.

- ? On March 17, 2005, Holt Romania Foundation presented the 2004 Annual Report in a press conference.
- ? Between May 1st and May 17, 2005, representatives of Holt Romania Foundation (Livia Trif, Elisabeta Buscu, Simona Colceriu) participated in a training in California, SUA, organized by Lift the Children Foundation, CA, in partnership with Child Abuse Prevention Council Sacramento.
- ? In the second quarter of 2005, in the project « Domestic adoption », Holt Romania Team, coordinated by Loredana Turiceanu, Domestic Adoption social worker, released the manual « *Adoption – a dream come true through love* », addressed to adoptive parents.
- ? In May and September 2005, the Holt Romania Foundation national headquarters and the Iasi site respectively received the visit of Holt Ukraine Team and of Ukrainian authorities. They met with Holt Romania staff, visited the Parent Resource Centers in Medgidia and Iasi, participated in meetings with the local authorities and visited social cases assisted in the Family Preservation and Domestic Adoption programs.



- ? Between July 14 and July 16, 2005, Holt Romania Foundation received the visit of Mr. Garry Gamer, Executive Director of Holt International Children's Services, SUA. Several meetings with Holt Romania employees took place on this occasion. The Parent Resource Center in Medgidia and the « Orizont » Placement Center were visited, as well as the Holt Romania Mures site. Mr. Garry Gamer and Holt Romania social workers visited families supported under the Family Preservation and Domestic Adoption programs in Constanta, Palazu-Mare, Medgidia, and Tg.Mures.



- ? In November 2005, Holt Romania Foundation moved its national headquarters to a new address : B-dul Tomis, nr.238, bl.TD17, sc.B, ap.20, cod. 900407.
- ? In May 2005, Holt Romania Foundation, Mures site, participated in an NGO Fair organized by Targu Mures City Hall.



- ? On December 5, 2005, Holt Romania Foundation participated in the NGO Fair organized by the National Youth Authority at the « Ovidius » University in Constanta.



- ? Between December 12 and December 16, 2005, Holt Romania Team developed a fund raising campaign for the winter holidays entitled «It Depends on You, Too ». Fixed and mobile urns were installed in different locations and a total of 512.2 RON was raised. Hdt International Children's Services also donated 1,500 RON on this occasion. The money was spent on presents (sweets and toys) for 100 children, social cases assisted by our foundation. These presents brought great joy in the hearts of the children in a time of carols and snowflakes. Through the Adoptive Parents Association in Constanta the following companies: Cardinal Motors SRL, Romwest Euro SRL and Hotprint Graphix SRL donated 7,000 RON, with which milk powder and medical supplies were bought for the children abandoned in the Cernavoda Hospital.

