

Profile of Child Awaiting Adoption in Haiti

Welcome to Holt's Haiti Program! Thousands of children in Haiti need the love and belonging of an adoptive family. Perhaps your son or daughter is there this very moment. As you begin your adoption process, we want to provide you with the most current information about the profile of children in Haiti in need of loving, adoptive families.

Age: Most children are infants - 6 years of age at time of matching. Occasionally older children (7+ years of age) come into care, some of which have a younger sibling.

Gender: Children of either gender are released for adoption. Adoptive families are able to specify the gender of the child they want to adopt if they wish.

Sibling groups: We often need families for siblings between the ages of infants - 6 years of age at time of matching. Occasionally, a sibling group with the oldest child being 7+ comes into care as well.

Health: Most children are healthy and within normal ranges for development. Since there are often more children needing homes than we already have families for, home finding is accomplished for many of these children through Holt's Waiting Child Program (WCP). Due to their ages, medical condition, developmental delays, being part of a sibling group, or other special needs, other children are recruited for via the WCP as well. Due to wide spread poverty in Haiti, many of the children exhibit signs of malnutrition upon admittance to the program, from which they quickly improve when provided good nutrition and medical care. Quarterly Child Reports and photos are provided to update adoptive parents with their child's most current health and developmental information.

Priorities: Families are needed for children of all ages, both genders, and sibling groups.

How children come into care:

While poverty is a widespread problem in Haiti, Holt never considers poverty alone to justify international adoption. Children needing adoptive families may have lost one or both parents. Many become homeless due to social/cultural conditions that present extreme hardship.

Holt Fontana staff receives children into care, perform initial evaluations, and provide immediate medical treatment and nurturing. The children at Holt Fontana Children's Village come into care from areas all over Haiti. Prior to children coming into care, Holt Fontana has a minimum of three interviews and a home visit with the birth parent(s) to determine if family preservation services might be an appropriate option, in an effort to keep the family together. If so, counseling and services are provided in that direction. If not, appropriate steps would be taken to bring the child into care such as medical testing and legal relinquishment of the child by the birth parent(s) in a local court.

Once the child comes into care, Holt Fontana staff provides an attentive environment where children are lovingly encouraged to thrive and develop. Holt tests each child for HIV, TB and other

illnesses prior to referring them to a prospective family. The children receive excellent care from a caring staff, which includes a pediatrician, a nurse, professionally trained childcare staff and around-the-clock caregivers. Those children old enough attend school in the community where the Center is.