



# Heart Gallery.....

Orange County California Chapter

## **The history of Heart Gallery**

On March 29, 2001, the New Mexico Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD) brought the expression “ a picture is worth a thousand words” to life. On that day, the first annual “Heart Gallery” exhibit opened at the prestigious Gerald Peters Gallery in Santa Fe. An unprecedented crowd of 1,200 people gathered at the opening to see stirring, professional portraits of children in CYFD custody that needed permanent homes. At the opening, and as they toured around the state, the Heart Gallery portraits have inspired heightened interest in foster and adoption, and drawn national attention. Like many great ideas it can be traced to a single dedicated individual–Diane Granito, an adoption recruiter for the State of New Mexico.

## **The start of the Heart Gallery Orange County California Chapter**

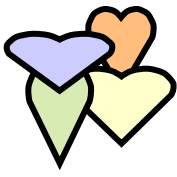
In response to the article highlighting Heart Gallery in the Sunday, January 2, 2005 issue of Parade magazine, a group of 17 dedicated volunteers, from all walks of life, came together on January 29, 2005 to inaugurate a Heart Gallery Chapter in Orange County, California. The very first responder to that article was 12 year old Sophie Riemer, who along with help from her mother Danette, chose to be instrumental in establishing the local chapter as her mitzvah project as she readies for her Bat Mitzvah this year. The group has already aligned themselves to work closely with the Orange County Social Services Agency (OCSSA), Children and Family Services.

## **About the Children in the care of OCSSA, Children and Family Services**

OCSSA Children and Family Services staff strives to prevent and remedy conditions that involve abuse, neglect or exploitation of children in our diverse and rapidly changing community. An average of 3,000 children are in out-of-home care, receiving family reunification or permanent placement. Approximately 38% reside with relatives, 37% in licensed or certified foster homes and 17% in group homes such as Orangewood, with the remainder in emergency shelters and other types of placements. Foster and adoptive homes are urgently needed to provide a safe nurturing environment for a variety of children from diverse cultural and ethnic backgrounds. Families able to care for sibling sets and older children are in great demand.



For more information log on to: [www.heartgalleryoc.org](http://www.heartgalleryoc.org) or call 714.396.6789



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*Currently we are in need of the following corporate and individual donations:*

♥ **Sponsor a child's portrait for a year.....\$500**

Will be used start a scholarship awards program as well as to cover special needs expenses for children in the Foster care system. May also cover any miscellaneous expenses incurred for the exhibits. An engraved plaque with your corporate or individual name will be attached to the frame of your sponsored portrait. Your name will appear in the events programs and website. You will receive a copy of each child's portrait that appears in your sponsored frame throughout the year.

♥ **Printing Services**

Needed for printed event programs and informational brochures. Your name will appear on all items in which you have donated the printing services for, as well as on our website.

♥ **Food and Beverage Catering Services**

Hors'doerves and beverages at the main Gallery event scheduled during the first weekend of November. Your name will appear in the events programs and website.

♥ **Floral Arrangements and/or Balloon Bouquets**

Florals and/or balloon bouquets are needed to adorn the venue for the main Gallery event during the first weekend of November. Your name will appear in the events programs and website.

♥ **"Eve of Gallery Opening" Party**

Sneak preview celebration for the children highlighted in the portraiture exhibit. All Heart Gallery sponsors, HGOC volunteers, OCSSA Children and Family Services staff, Spokespersons, local dignitaries and media will be invited. Children will be introduced and presented with a smaller framed copy of their gallery portrait. We are in need of pizzas, beverages and small party favors for the attendees. Your name will appear in the events programs and website.

♥ **Volunteers**

We are always looking for people who are willing to donate their valuable time and talents to make our mission a successful. Your name will appear in the events programs and website. Please go to "Contact Us" page on this website.

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