

*a new foundation* to support the Heart Gallery of New Mexico!



The Heart Gallery of New Mexico Foundation was created to raise funds necessary to expand the Heart Gallery of New Mexico as well as to improve upon and support other New Mexico initiatives which encourage adoption through foster care. The Heart Gallery of New Mexico Foundation is a registered 501c(3) organization. To find out how you can help or donate, contact Judy Richardson at (505) 982-2426 or visit [www.heartgallerynm.org](http://www.heartgallerynm.org).

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**In Honor of**

Brad Woolbright, The Administrative Staff  
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**by Richard Gettis**

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Martha Gilmore **by Bob and Sunny Bettis**

**Special Thanks**

Gerald Peters  
The Gerald Peters Gallery/Elizabeth  
Hubbard  
Steve Stucker and KOB-TV  
Clear Channel Outdoors

*We apologize for any unintentional omissions or inaccuracies. Please notify Judy Richardson at (505) 982-2426 for corrections.*



Helping adoption-available kids find their 'forever families'

*A Special Report*



Oneida by Marti Niman



Shanna & Dominic by Julien McRoberts



Stephen by Julien McRoberts



Jessica by Candace Gould



Jerry by Stephanie Pendergrass



Carlos by Cheron Bayna

**YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE  
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Amber by Jackie Mathey



# what is the Heart Gallery?



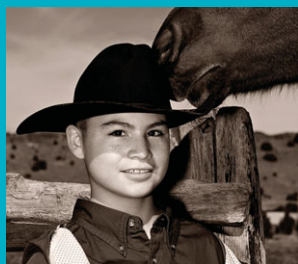
Destiny by Don Usner



Joseph by Rick Scibelli



Tynesa by Molly Wagoner



Hauk by Tony Bonanno

**T**he Heart Gallery began as an idea in response to the question: "How can we better help foster children find their forever homes?" The inspired answer: capture the personalities of these waiting children in professional portraits, allowing potential parents to see a bit of their hearts and spirits, and experience a sense of who they are.

## Birth of a nationwide movement

The Heart Gallery concept was born in New Mexico in March 2001. Diane Granito, a recruiter for the New Mexico Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD) brought the idea to life at the nation's first Heart Gallery exhibit in Santa Fe. Expanding on the suggestion of Cathy Maier Callanan, a photographer and adoptive mother, Diane gathered dozens of volunteer professional photographers to take portraits of available children. Christened "The Heart Gallery," the awareness-raising exhibit opened at Santa Fe's Gerald Peters Gallery. It drew a capacity crowd to view the stirring portraits of children in CYFD custody who were dreaming of finding their "forever families."

Since then, the Heart Gallery of New Mexico events have helped find homes for many children who were considered "hard to place," due to their age or the fact that they were members of a sibling group. One of the happiest endings came in June 2005, when a special portrait inspired a couple to adopt five teenaged siblings. Two photographers even "clicked" so well with the children they were photographing that they went on to adopt them!

## Caring hearts across America respond

Thanks to media coverage and technical support from CYFD, the Heart Gallery spread to several other states. At first the message spread slowly; then, in January 2005, an insightful article about the project by Rosemary Zibart appeared in *Parade* magazine. It was as though the nation had been waiting to learn about the children and how they could help. Hundreds of e-mails and phone calls poured into CYFD asking for guidance. As more groups sprang up, The Heart Gallery became the focus of extensive national media attention, at one point achieving a media milestone when it was featured on the *Today Show* and in the *New York Times* and *People* in the same week.

Other coverage followed with *CNN*, *MSNBC*, *USA Weekend*, *Women's World*, *ABC World News Tonight*, *The View*, *20/20* and the CBS special, *A Home for the Holidays*, all doing stories on the Heart Gallery. Each time a piece appeared, more people were inspired to step up and help. Nearly every state now has a Heart Gallery and some have many: Florida has thirteen groups, California has eight, and Texas has Heart Galleries that cover as many as 60 counties.

CYFD continues to be a conduit for the positive energy of these dedicated planners. The US Children's Bureau initiative, *The Collaboration to Adopt US Kids*, has also been a strong supporter of the project, naming the Heart Gallery a "best practice." On November 1, 2005, they hosted the first National Heart Gallery exhibit at Union Station in Washington, D.C.

With 46 states currently hosting or planning Heart Gallery openings, the range of talent, generosity and caring is breathtaking. Each area's group of volunteers, organizers and photographers creates a special setting to show these deserving children in their best light. Though each Heart Gallery is unique, creativity, dedication and lots of hard work are evident in all of them. They have inspired people to cry, to smile, and to act – the number of Heart Gallery-inspired placements will soon number in the thousands. Individual children and sibling groups of three, four and five have found families...because their new parents saw a Heart Gallery portrait and wanted to make their dreams of "home" come true.



Angel by Baron Wolman



Victoria by Clare Lighton



James by Laura Shill



Miranda by Cathy Maier Callanan



Clinton by Kelly LaDuke  
Jacksonville, FL Heart Gallery

# the Heart Gallery of America



Enrique by Nita Winter  
Bay Area Heart Gallery



Deidre and John by Lisa Eastman  
Kansas Heart Gallery



Heart Gallery of America, Inc.  
heartgalleryofamerica.org



Johnathan and Sheandra by Joe Gemignani  
Broward County FL Heart Gallery

## national news + notes

### Santa Fe

Matthew Straeb, of the Heart Gallery of Broward County Florida, has joined CYFD and Diane Granito in a new initiative: co-founding **Heart Gallery of America, Inc.**

With an experienced and enthusiastic board, successful and involved members, this national nonprofit will support the work of Heart Gallery organizations which, in turn, support our foster children in their dream to become part of a loving family.

### New Jersey

The year before their first Heart Gallery, the Division of Youth and Family Services received 81 adoptive inquiries in the month of June. In the first three weeks of the June following the New Jersey Heart Gallery opening, 460 inquiries were received, 2/3 of whom said they were inquiring about a Heart Gallery child. Within ten weeks of its launch, Heart Gallery of NJ had found prospective adoptive families for 75 of the state's hardest to place children. [www.heartgallerynj.com](http://www.heartgallerynj.com)

### Tampa Bay, Florida

Heart Gallery Tampa Bay has matched 40% of the foster children from our 2007 gallery with potential families since we opened in February, with 3 adoption finalizations already! *Jesse Miller, Director, Tampa Bay Heart Gallery*

We could not imagine our home without Jessica in it now. We are truly blessed by having been given this opportunity! The Heart Gallery was our first awareness of the foster care system in Hillsborough County so please keep it going! Please don't ever stop believing in what you do each and every day for these children and for families like ours. *A note from 13 year-old Jessica's new adoptive mother.*

### Las Vegas, Nevada

Second opening event held May 2007. 37 children featured, 10 placed so far for this year. First year, 58 children featured, 55 have adoption plans, 30 are ready to go to finalization. The direct results from Heart Gallery would be 60 - 75%. *Sharon Feeney, Las Vegas Heart Gallery*

### Lane County, Oregon

Adoption Inquiries – Pre-Heart Gallery 11/05 - 3/06: 30. Post-Heart Gallery 11/06 - 3/07: 72. Additionally, our foster/adoption orientation class size has grown from about 20 - 40 people to 70 - 80 people per class. This has resulted in the need for a second trainer at each class to assist with the large class size.

### Honolulu, Hawaii

*From David Louis who 'aged out' of foster care himself:* We had a huge Heart Gallery exhibit in one of the largest and fanciest malls just outside of Honolulu. Hundreds, maybe thousands poured through the Heart Gallery and most arrived that day because of the media coverage. We had over 100 families sign up to become foster parents and begin the process to become licensed to adopt. *(Follow-up: David and his wife are adopting a Hawaii Heart Gallery teen)*

### Orange County, California

The Heart Gallery has been responsible for generating over 600 inquiries in Orange County since November 2005. We have already been the most successful adoption outreach program in Orange County's history!

**Thanks from the heart to:** Adoption Means Love | Adopt Us Kids | A.D. Design Christian Community Foundation of South Florida | Sebastien Dartevelle Sherry Hursey/Lilly's Light | Rebekah Negrete/Mrs. International | The Piscione Family | Matthew Straeb | Randy & Elizabeth Travis | Ella Zamora

...and to child advocates across the country who have embraced The Heart Gallery and its dream, to find a loving family for each of the 118,000 waiting children in America!



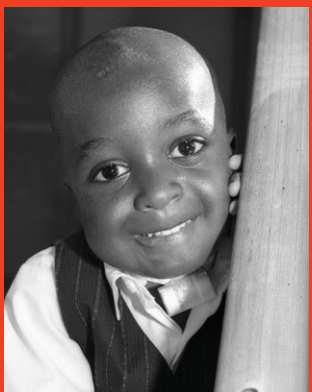
Timothy by Melisa  
Arkansas Heart Gallery



Adriana by Mariza Brussolo  
Central TX Heart Gallery



Jeremy by Kim & Peggy Warmolts  
Pinellas & Pasco County FL Heart Gallery



John by Catherine Gallagher  
Pensacola, FL Heart Gallery

# myths about adoption & foster care

Many misconceptions surround adoption and foster care – here are some facts from CYFD to clear them up:

## foster care

Foster parents can choose the age, gender, ethnicity and needs level of the children they care for. They can also choose to provide varying levels of care: from respite (1-4 days) to emergency (1-30 days), to regular, day-to-day care.

Foster parents receive financial assistance each month, and all foster children have medical coverage. CYFD staff members provide support before and after the children are placed in foster homes. Foster parents of all types are needed throughout New Mexico.

## adoption

Adoption is truly a positive "act of love" which benefits both the children who need homes and their new families. There are no fees to adopt through CYFD, and subsidies are available on a case-by-case basis to help families meet the children's needs.

## becoming a foster or adoptive parent

Foster and adoptive parents can be single or married, and do not have to own their own homes. There is no upper age limit.

♥ adoption...an act of love ♥

In 4 to 6 months, you can qualify to become a foster or adoptive parent through CYFD if you are...

- 18 or older
- in good health
- able to provide space for a child
- a New Mexico resident
- willing to attend 27 hours of training classes evenings and/or weekends
- willing to participate in a qualification study
- committed to caring for children

Information about foster care and adoption can be obtained by calling CYFD at 1-800-432-2075 or visiting [www.cyfd.org](http://www.cyfd.org).

