



HEART GALLERY

of Oregon



UNITING FOREVER FAMILIES THROUGH THE ARTS

When is a picture worth more than a thousand words?

When it can help a special child find a "forever" family.



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Every child needs a place to call home. Yet thousands of Oregon children have to live in the foster care system because of abuse, neglect or abandonment in their past. Some of them are coping with developmental, physical, emotional or behavioral problems.

But they are resilient children and they need families to open their hearts and homes to them. They need to know who will love them; they need a family to call their own.

The HEART GALLERY OF OREGON is based on a simple idea: A picture is worth a thousand words. Professional photographers donate their time and artistic talent to take compelling pictures of Oregon's most hopeful and deserving foster children.

These visually stunning portraits capture the spirit, dignity and inner beauty of the children. The portraits are then exhibited to potential adoptive families in "galleries" across the state.

Heart Galleries have already made a huge impact in 45 other states and 60 cities. In Hartford, Connecticut, for example, portraits of 40 children were put on display. Nineteen of these children were later adopted. Nationally, more than 500 difficult-to-place foster children have found homes since the first Heart Gallery began in 2001.

In Oregon, a group of concerned citizens, artists and professionals has come together to establish a Heart Gallery, to give individual children and groups of siblings a chance to find a family and a home. *Please help make it a reality.*

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Our Mission

The mission of the Heart Gallery of Oregon is to reach out, through the arts, to Oregonians wanting to adopt a child and spotlight the many older children, children of color and sibling groups waiting for adoption. We also strive to inspire Oregonians who might not see themselves as potential adoptive parents to open their hearts and homes to these children.

Our Goal

The goal of the Heart Gallery of Oregon is to encourage Oregonians to take a role in children's lives as adoptive parents, foster parents, mentors and contributors. Heart Gallery exhibitions will create awareness of the need for these resources and educate the public about the thousands of children in the state's care.

Heart Gallery supporters hope to have the first exhibitions ready to travel the state by early 2007.

Impact on the community

By helping vulnerable children find permanent families, the Heart Gallery of Oregon will have a positive impact on the state's communities.

The cost to a community when children are not in stable families is enormous. In 2004, for example, the Citizen's Crime Commission reported that 40 to 50 percent of all homeless youth in Portland had left the foster-care system without being put in a permanent family. In addition, more than 40 percent of the young people who leave the foster-care system when they are 18 years old will end up spending time in jail.

A nurturing, loving environment where children are able to thrive can make all the difference. *The Heart Gallery is an effective way to accomplish that.*

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Donations

Your donations will help us move forward with our planned exhibit of Oregon foster children who are available for adoption.

To create a Heart Gallery in Oregon, we need to raise a total of \$120,000. If you can contribute to this cause — even if it's a small amount — we welcome your donation.



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Heart Galleries in the News

Media coverage is helping to spread the word about Heart Galleries across the country. Here is a sampling of articles in the news.

Parade Magazine, 4/17/05

http://archive.parade.com/2005/0417/0417_heart_galleries.html

ABC News, "Persons of the Week: Heart Gallery Photographers" 4/2/05

<http://www.abcnews.go.com/WNT/PersonOfWeek/story?id=633953&page=1>

The Hartford Courant

<http://www.courant.com/news/local/northeast/hc-heart-sp.special>

Philadelphia Inquirer, 4/1/05

http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/mld/inquirer/news/local/states/new_jersey/11281416.htm

CameraArts "Spreading the Message"

http://www.cameraarts.com/pdf/ca41_heart_online.pdf

New York Times, 3/21/05

<http://www.nytimes.com/2005/03/21/nyregion/21adopt.html>

NPR, *All Things Considered* segment on the NJ Heart Gallery, 3/11/05

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=4531391>

Parade Magazine, 1/2/05

http://archive.parade.com/2005/0102/0102_galleries.html

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Heart Gallery Partners:

The Foster Family Care Network

The Gift of Adoption Fund - Columbia River Chapter

The Oregon Department of Human Services

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