



August 2009

Since January 2005, it has been community members such as you that have made The Heart Gallery of Central Texas a reality and success! Kids of all ages that never believed a family could possibly want them are now living in loving, stable and nurturing homes. The success of this project is unprecedented, yet there are still hundreds of children waiting in Central Texas.

The Heart Gallery of Central Texas, now in its 5th year, is a traveling art exhibit using the talents of portrait and documentary photographers to capture the spirit and personalities of foster children waiting for their forever family. The overall goal is to keep the exhibit moving until all of the children are adopted. This year, more than 60 renowned documentary and portrait photographers volunteered hundreds of hours and drove countless miles to reach as many children as possible. There is extensive outreach and coordination involved with the creation of this project, spanning approximately six months. Then, The Heart Gallery of Central Texas travels around Central Texas for another 8 months.

Too often we hear “who would want to adopt a 17 year old” or “I want my children to have grandparents, I need to have a family”. Many of the foster children featured in the gallery are older children, minorities, or members of a sibling group.

With your help, and support from individuals and area businesses, we can find families for these children! The Heart Gallery of Central Texas debuted in August 2005 with 75 portraits of over 120 children and each year it has grown. To date, more than one-half of these children are either adopted or in the process of being adopted!

The 2009 Heart Gallery of Central Texas will be unveiled September 17 at the Heart Gallery Gala, beginning at 6:30pm. This is the 5th Annual Heart Gallery of Central Texas Gala and we expect another magnificent turnout. Show your support, sponsor the Heart Gallery and join us at the event. Your sponsorship will be recognized at each venue, and online, for the next year.

Every day in Central Texas there are over 600 children waiting for their forever family. Over 70% of those that age out of the system at 18 ends up homeless or in the prison

system. The odds are simply stacked against these kids. These children need love and support and, most importantly opportunity in a permanent, supportive and loving environment.

Please join us and make a difference!

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tracy Eilers". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letter 'T' being particularly large and stylized.

Tracy Eilers, D.M.
The Heart Gallery of Central Texas, Chair
Adoption Coalition of Texas, Executive Director



HONORARY BOARD MEMBERS

The Honorable Steve Ogden, Senate, District 5

The Honorable W. Jeanne Meurer, Judge, 98th District Court, Retired

Olga Campos, Daybreak/Midday Anchor, KVUE

Shawn Rutherford, Weather Anchor, KXAN

Gary Walsh, Program Director/Morning Host KPEX 102.3 The River

Amy Hadley, TV Host/Producer

Lytle Pressley, SPAZIO By Lytle Pressley

PROJECT AGENCY PARTNERS

Adoption Coalition of Texas

(Arrow Child & Family Ministries, Child Protective Services, Lutheran Social Services, Marywood Children and Families, and Pathways Youth and Family Services)

CASA of Bastrop, Lee and Fayette Counties

CASA of Central Texas

CASA for the Highland Lakes Area

CASA of McLennan and Hill Counties

CASA of Travis County

Voices for Children, CASA of Brazos Valley



Sponsorship Opportunities

The Heart Gallery of Central Texas (2009) will feature over 140 children who are waiting for adoption. The Heart Gallery of Central Texas is an art exhibit and community awareness tool that has proven successful. On the very low end The Heart Gallery of Central Texas costs approximately \$40,000 annually (not including staff time). Last year, we expanded The Heart Gallery of Central Texas to include a Mini Heart Gallery. These are beautifully printed, museum mount pictures that allow us to have the Heart Gallery in two places at the same time. We had such a backlog of requests to display we went ahead and printed twice. We plan to continue with the Mini Heart Gallery this year as well. Community awareness and recruitment are imperative to alerting families to adoption – and to the fact that these kids are just kids who need a loving family. As a Heart Gallery sponsor, your dollars will directly support the heart gallery (material cost to frame, display and promote the exhibit as it tours Central Texas).

Companies with Heart – Corporate Sponsorship Levels

\$10,000 Corporate Level

- Exclusive logo placement in all Heart Gallery communications
- Premier sponsorship recognition at all Heart Gallery exhibits
- Name prominently displayed on all collateral materials at each event
- 10 tickets to The Heart Gallery Unveiling Gala September 17, 2009
- Personal Invitation to and VIP status at all other exhibits during the 6 month travel period
- Mention in all PR and Media opportunities (TV, print and online)
- 12 months of premier placement at the Heart Gallery of Central Texas website, including your logo and link to your website

\$5,000 Corporate Level

- Mention in all PR and Media opportunities (TV and print)
- 12 months of promotion at Heart Gallery of Central Texas website
- Name listed as corporate sponsor on all collateral materials at each event
- 6 tickets to The Heart Gallery Unveiling Gala September 17, 2009
- Invitation to all other exhibit events
- 12 months of premier placement at the Heart Gallery of Central Texas website, including your logo and link to your website

\$2,500 Corporate Level

- 12 months of promotion at Heart Gallery of Central Texas website
- Name listed as corporate sponsor on all collateral materials at each event
- 4 tickets to The Heart Gallery Unveiling Gala September 17, 2009
- Invitation to all other exhibit events
- 12 months business name listing at the Heart Gallery of Central Texas website, including a link to your website

\$1,500 Corporate Level

- Name listed as corporate sponsor on all collateral materials at each event
- 4 tickets to The Heart Gallery Unveiling Gala September 17, 2009
- Invitation to all other exhibit events
- 12 months business name listing at the Heart Gallery of Central Texas website, including a link to your website

\$1,000 Corporate Level

- Name listed as corporate sponsor on all collateral materials at each event
- 2 tickets to The Heart Gallery Gala September 17, 2009
- Invitation to all other exhibit events
- 12 months business name listing at Heart Gallery of Central Texas website

\$500 Small Business Level (20 or fewer employees)

- Name listed as corporate sponsor on all collateral materials at each event
- 2 tickets to The Heart Gallery Unveiling Gala September 17, 2006
- Invitation to all other exhibit events
- 12 months business name listing at Heart Gallery of Central Texas website

Individuals with Heart – Individual Sponsorship Levels

\$2,000 Individual Level:

- 8 tickets to The Heart Gallery Unveiling Gala September 17, 2009
- Invitation to all other exhibit events
- Recognition in all PR and Media opportunities (TV and print)
- Recognition at Heart Gallery of Central Texas website
- Name listed as individual sponsor on all collateral materials at each event

\$1,000 Individual Level:

- 4 tickets to The Heart Gallery Unveiling Gala September 17, 2009
- Invitation to all other exhibit events
- Recognition in all PR and Media opportunities (TV and print)
- Recognition at Heart Gallery of Central Texas website
- Name listed as individual sponsor on all collateral materials at each event

\$500 Individual Level:

- 2 tickets to The Heart Gallery Unveiling Gala September 17, 2009
- Invitation to all other exhibit events
- Recognition at Heart Gallery of Central Texas website
- Name listed as individual sponsor on all collateral materials at each event

\$250 Individual Level:

- 2 ticket to The Heart Gallery Unveiling Gala September 17, 2009
- Recognition at Heart Gallery of Central Texas website
- Name listed as individual sponsor on all collateral materials at each event



Please fill out the information below (PLEASE PRINT) and fax or send this form and contribution to:
OR, sponsor online at www.heartgallerytexas.org

Adoption Coalition of Texas
2222 Western Trails, Suite 101
Austin, TX 78745
Fax: (512) 692-2540
tracyeilers@adopttexas.org

Sponsorship Form
Thank you for your generosity!

Please make checks payable to *Adoption Coalition of Texas*
For additional information, please call (512) 301-2825.

Name(s): _____

Company: _____

Title: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Fax: _____

Email: _____

Choose Sponsorship Level:

Companies with Heart Corporate Levels		Individuals with Heart Individual Levels	
___	\$10,000	___	\$2,000
___	\$5,000	___	\$1,500
___	\$2,500	___	\$1,000
___	\$1,000	___	\$500
___	\$500	___	\$250

Method of Payment

___ Check (payment enclosed)

___ Credit Card Card Number: _____

 Security Code: _____

 Name on Card: _____

 Expiration Date: _____

 Signature: _____



THE HEART GALLERY
of central texas

I am sorry, I cannot sponsor The Heart Gallery of Central Texas, but I would like to make a tax deductible donation in the amount of \$_____.

Method of Payment

Check (payment enclosed)

Credit Card Card Number: _____

 Security Code: _____

 Name on Card: _____

 Expiration Date: _____

 Signature: _____

Thank you for your generosity!

Mail or fax to:

Adoption Coalition of Texas
2222 Western Trails, Suite 101
Austin, TX 78745
Fax: (512) 692-2540
tracyeilers@adopttexas.org

The Heart Gallery of Central Texas

www.heartgallerytexas.com
www.adoptioncoalitiontx.org



The Heart Gallery of Central Texas is a traveling art exhibit using the talents of portrait and documentary photographers to capture the spirit and personalities of foster children waiting for their forever family. These children, removed from their biological families because of abuse or neglect, are legally free for adoption.

It began in New Mexico, and is now occurring in over 40 states...

The Heart Gallery of Central Texas began in January 2005 and has been traveling ever since. Photographers throughout Central Texas have generously donated their time and talents in hopes that their work will inspire people to open their hearts to adoption of children from the foster care system.

Each year, the exhibit grows with the goal remaining the same – to keep The Heart Gallery of Central Texas moving until all of the children are adopted. Each year, planning for the Heart Gallery begins in February with the unveiling in September. Then, from September to April, the exhibit travels around Central Texas, staying on average a month at any given location or community.

It is a true community effort and call to action.

In Central Texas, there are over 3,500 children in foster care every day and approximately 500 of them are waiting for their forever family.

To learn more about adoption from foster care, call the Adoption Coalition of Texas at 512-301-2825.

It is making a difference in the lives of children.

The purpose of this project is to humanize these children, putting pictures with an issue. One by one we hope to find these individuals and sibling groups the loving, safe and stable families they deserve. This is a project that works. Children of all ages are being matched with Forever Families and thousands of phone calls from all over the country come in every year. Within the first month after the unveiling of The Heart Gallery of Central Texas every year, approximately 1,200 calls are received alone. Children have been placed with families in Maine and California, single parents, families with kids and first time parents. On average, over 50% of the children are adopted each year, a tremendous increase in the area of adoption.

However, many more kids wait. Every child hopes on a daily basis that a call will come through saying a family has been found for them.

We believe there is a family for every child, we just have to find them!

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is a “Heart Gallery”?

A: “Heart Galleries” exist across the United States as photography exhibits that feature the faces of children who are living in foster care and are waiting to be adopted. The first Heart Gallery premiered in Santa Fe, New Mexico, in March 2001, as a project of the New Mexico Children, Youth and Families Department.

Q: What is The Heart Gallery of Central Texas?

A: The Heart Gallery of Central Texas is a traveling art exhibit using the talents of portrait and documentary photographers to capture the spirit and personalities of foster children waiting for their forever family. The Heart Gallery of Central Texas travel from city to city across Central Texas over an eight-month timeframe. It is also available online at www.heartgallerytexas.com.

Q: What is the goal of The Heart Gallery of Central Texas?

A: The goal is to find forever families for these children languishing in the foster care system. The Heart Gallery of Central Texas is a community awareness and recruitment project. It helps us to humanize these children, putting a face with an issue. These pictures show the personalities and characteristics of the kids and offer yet another perspective about each and every child.

Q: Who is responsible for The Heart Gallery of Central Texas?

A: The Heart Gallery of Central Texas is a project of the Adoption Coalition of Texas, a nonprofit collaboration of child placing agencies (Arrow Child and Family Ministries, Lutheran Social Services, Marywood Children and Families and Pathways Youth and Family Services) and the State of Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, Child Protective Services. The collective mission is to find forever families for children languishing in the foster care system. When the idea of starting a Heart Gallery in this region surfaced, it was only natural that it be a recruitment and community awareness project of the Adoption Coalition of Texas because the missions are the same – to find forever families for forgotten children. The Adoption Coalition of Texas is a small nonprofit which officially began in February 2004 with an annual operating budget of under \$150,000.

Q: How is The Heart Gallery of Central Texas funded?

A: The Heart Gallery of Central Texas is the financial responsibility of the Adoption Coalition of Texas and funds are sought from the community – businesses and individuals. With six months of planning, developing and framing and then eight months of traveling, this project is labor and material intensive. Each year prior to the unveiling, the Adoption Coalition of Texas seeks financial sponsors for that year’s project. While sponsorships account for less than 1/3 of the actual costs, the balance is funded through the Adoption Coalition of Texas’ general fund – monies derived from grants for the purpose of community awareness and recruitment. There continues to be a great need to fund existing and future efforts.

Q: What is considered Central Texas?

A: Central Texas is a 30 county area that includes Austin, Waco, Bryan, College Station, Killeen, Lampasas, Llano, San Saba and surrounding areas.

Q: Are all of the children in the Heart Gallery living in Austin or Central Texas?

A: No. The kids cases originated in Central Texas, however, the children can be living in shelters, foster homes or residential treatment centers throughout the state, depending on their needs and space availability.

Q: How did you select the photographers?

A: Actually, the photographers select us. Local photographers were so moved by a 2005 Parade Magazine news story about other Heart Galleries that they wanted to create one here in Central Texas. Since, more and more photographers have come forward to join the cause. Each and every photographer has embraced this project from a personal perspective that goes above and beyond simply photographing.

Q: How did you choose which children to photograph?

A: Every day in Central Texas there are approximately 500 kids waiting for adoption. Child Protective Services (CPS) case workers, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs), case workers with Child Placing Agencies (CPA), foster families and volunteers throughout Central Texas identify and recommend kids for the project. We try to include as many kids as logistically and financially possible. We do try very hard to include kids who are older and at risk for aging out of the system, but yet still want that elusive forever family. Each year, over 100 kids are featured in The Heart Gallery of Central Texas.

Q: Is this a state-funded program?

A: No.

Q: What other organizations and people are supporters of this project?

A: First and foremost, we have the Texas Documentary Photographers and portrait photographers and then general photographers. Without photographers, we would have no project. Secondly, we have the partners of the Adoption Coalition of Texas (Arrow Child and Family Ministries, Child Protective Services, Homes4Good, Lutheran Social Services, Marywood Children and Families and Pathways Youth and Family Services). All of the kids are in Child Protective Services care. Without the help of the kids' adoption and conservator case workers, we would not be able to coordinate this project as the state is the parent for all of the kids. We have an honorary committee that consists of Olga Campos with KVUE, Amy Hadley with News 8 Austin and Lytle Pressley, owner of SPAZIO.

In 2006, we expanded the community partners to include six CASA organizations across Central Texas which has proven a huge asset to this project. Not only does this help us identify children who are waiting, but we are also able to bring in more advocates for the kids themselves who can help transport and coordinate, and ultimately, help with necessary information as families come into the system to adopt. The depth of this project and adoption process itself has been significantly expanded because of the involvement of the following CASA organizations:

CASA of Bastrop, Lee and Fayette Counties
CASA of Central Texas
CASA for the Highland Lakes Area
CASA of McLennan and Hill Counties
CASA of Travis County
Voices for Children, CASA of Brazos Valley

We are fortunate that many people care about these kids and this project.

Q: Where can I find more information about The Heart Gallery of Central Texas, becoming a sponsor, the adoption process or learning more about kids?

A: You can go to www.heartgallerytexas.com or contact the Adoption Coalition of Texas at 512-301-2825, www.adoptioncoalitiontx.org or tracyeilers@adopttexas.org.

Q: How much does it cost to adopt from the foster care system?

A: There are no fees to adopt from the foster care system. In addition, you do not need to be married to adopt nor do you do not need to own your own home. You need to be able to offer love, stability and safety!