



*A project of the Adoption Coalition of Texas and CASAs across Central Texas*

## FACTS AT-A-GLANCE

### The Heart Gallery of Central Texas

- An eight-month recruitment and community awareness project to find forever families for children in foster care and create awareness about the kids in general; project of the Adoption Coalition of Texas
- 2009 exhibit to feature 110 portraits of 144 children (individuals and sibling groups) who are eligible for adoption, taken by 60 Central Texas photographers
- Premiered the initial exhibit for Central Texas in 2005 at an Austin event; 2009 reflects the fifth year, with over a 60% adoption rate of the children in these photos from the past five years
- 2009 portraits to be unveiled at the Heart Gallery GALA on September 17, 2009 at 6:30 pm in Austin at SPAZIO Interiors by Lytle Pressley (\$25 per person and anyone is welcome, proceeds benefit the Heart Gallery of Central Texas)
- Created by volunteer photographers who were inspired by the first Heart Gallery in Santa Fe, New Mexico, and by the tremendous exhibit and showing in Austin during the past five years
- Exhibit will travel to any Central Texas city who expresses interest in helping find forever families for children in foster care

### The Adoption Coalition of Texas

- Comprised of private, nonprofit adoption agencies - Arrow Child and Family Ministries, Lutheran Social Services of the South, Marywood Children and Family Services, and Pathways Youth and Family Services -- and the state of Texas' Child Protective Services
- Created as a collaborative project whose mission is to work together to find forever families for abused and neglected children living in foster care
- Funded by the Austin Community Foundation in November 2003 to promote the adoption of children from foster care
- 100% funded through grants and donations
- Operates as a nonprofit organization under the umbrella of the Austin Community Foundation

### Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) organizations

- The Heart Gallery of Central Texas works with six CASA organizations. These are non-profit organization dedicated to training volunteers from the community to advocate for the needs of abused and neglected children in court
- CASA groups working with the Heart Gallery of Texas include: 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, and Voices for Children - CASA of Brazos Valley
- Last year, hundreds CASA volunteers from these six organizations provided a strong voice for the abused and neglected children in Central Texas' multi-county court system