



THE HEART GALLERY
of central texas

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

FACTS AT-A-GLANCE

The Heart Gallery of Central Texas

- A six-month recruitment and community awareness program to find forever families for children in foster care and create awareness about foster care
- Features 95 portraits of over 140 children (individuals and sibling groups) who are eligible for adoption, taken by 50 Central Texas photographers
- 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 2005.
- Will travel to any Central Texas cities who express interest in helping find forever families for children in foster care

The Adoption Coalition of Texas

- Comprised of five private, nonprofit adoption agencies - The Arrow Project, Child Placement Center, Lutheran Social Services of the South, Marywood Children and Family Services, and Pathways Youth and Family Services - and the state of Texas's 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
- 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, approximately over 600 CASA volunteers from these six organizations provided a strong voice for the abused and neglected children in Central Texas' multi-county court system
- After receiving 40 hours of training, CASA volunteers are paired with social work professionals and spend an average of 20 hours per month researching a case for a year