



THE HEART GALLERY
of central texas

Calendar Advisory - September 2007

**Unique Photography Exhibit Debuts in September Featuring
Children in Foster Care Awaiting Adoption
*Exhibit Reflects Large Adoption Success Rate from Previous Years***

The Heart Gallery of Central Texas Photo Exhibit Premiere and Gala to be held September 6th

WHAT: Due to the overwhelming national interest and its success in recent years, The **2007 Heart Gallery of Central Texas** photography exhibit will unveil for the third year with its Premiere Gala on **September 6, 2007** in Austin at SPAZIO by Lytle Pressley.

Both a traveling portrait exhibit and innovative approach to community outreach, The Heart Gallery of Central Texas is a unique opportunity for individuals to learn more about children in the foster care system and the adoption process. The exhibit is made possible by over 50 Central Texas documentary and portrait photographers who volunteered their time and talents again this summer to capture the characteristics and individual personalities of more than 140 children (100 portraits) waiting for adoption, in hopes that their work will inspire people to open their hearts and consider adoption. At any given moment, there are 500 children waiting for adoption in the Central Texas foster care system, all removed from their natural family due to abuse or neglect.

Tickets are \$25 per person and proceeds benefit The Heart Gallery of Central Texas. The exhibit will be on display at SPAZIO from September 6 – 20th, and travel around Central Texas for the next eight months. The Heart Gallery is a project of the Adoption Coalition, in partnership with six CASA organizations across Central Texas. The Adoption Coalition of Texas is a nonprofit organization created in 2003 to focus on finding forever families for children languishing in the foster care system.

WHEN/ The Heart Gallery of Central Texas Premiere and Gala

WHERE: Thursday, September 6, 2007

SPAZIO by Lytle Pressley

1214 W. 6th Street

Austin, Texas 78701

6:30 p.m.

WHY: To promote that there are children in foster care awaiting adoption and to educate the community about the adoption process. There are an estimated 523,000 children in foster care in the United States, and more than 150,000 of them are waiting to be adopted. In Central Texas alone, there is a daily average of 3,500 children in foster care with 500 waiting for adoption. Since 1987, the number of children in foster care has nearly doubled, and the average time a child remains in foster care has lengthened to nearly three years. Each year, approximately



20,000 children in foster care will age out of the system without ever being placed with a permanent family according to the *U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families Administration on Children; Interim Estimates for FY 2003.*

CONTACT: Media: Michele Golden, Golden & Co.

Email: michele@goldenandco.com

Phone: 281.759.2404/W, 713.252.6464/C

Sponsorship Inquiries:

Tracy Eilers, Adoption Coalition of Texas

512.301.2825

tracyeilers@austin.rr.com

Web sites:

www.adoptioncoalitiontx.org

www.heartgallerytexas.com