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HEART GALLERY OF NEW JERSEY COMES TO SUMMIT

New Jersey Center for Visual Arts, domogallery and Overlook Hospital Host Photo Exhibition of New Jersey's Foster Children Available for Adoption

July 28, 2005 – Summit, N.J. --- The Heart Gallery of New Jersey, Inc., www.heartgallerynj.com, announced today the opening of The Heart Gallery of New Jersey in Summit. The Heart Gallery is dedicated to raising awareness of New Jersey's foster children who are legally free for adoption and are in need of finding permanent homes. The Heart Gallery utilizes the donated time of award-winning professional photographers to take portraits that help capture the spirit of each child. More than 300 portraits are in a traveling exhibit and are on display in Summit at the New Jersey Center for Visual Arts, 34-36 Maple Street; the domogallery, 447 Springfield Avenue; Overlook Hospital, 99 Beauvoir Avenue and the Summit Train Station.

On Friday, July 29th from 6 to 9pm, a reception is open to the public at both the NJCVA Maple Street gallery and the domogallery on Springfield Avenue.

“More than 150 photographers who are committed to making an impact on the lives of these children have given us the gift of their time and talent, making this exhibit possible,” said Najlah Feanny Hicks, president of the Heart Gallery. “We are thrilled that the Summit community has chosen to host our exhibit, will get to know the children and possibly take action to see if adoption may be right for them.”

This is the second stop of a multi-city tour of these extraordinary and touching portraits. The Heart Gallery of New Jersey celebrated its debut on June 11, 2005 at the Liberty Science Center, Jersey City, with Acting Governor Richard Codey and more than 1200 people in attendance.

The Heart Gallery has set an ambitious goal of taking photographs of more than 300 children who are currently legally free for adoption in the state of New Jersey. The photographers include Pulitzer Prize and World Press winners who gave their time with no compensation to make The Heart Gallery of New Jersey a reality. As new photographs are taken, these portraits are added to the Heart Gallery website, www.heartgallerynj.com.

The website has received more than 14 million visitors since it was created in March 2005.

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All of the children featured in the Heart Gallery are photographed with the permission of the New Jersey Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS), the state agency responsible for their care. The photographers involved followed guidelines set by DYFS and met with caseworkers responsible for the children. All the children involved in the program are legally free for adoption.

About the Heart Gallery of New Jersey

The Heart Gallery of New Jersey is based upon the efforts of Heart Gallery projects that were initiated in multiple cities across the United States. The Heart Gallery of New Jersey is the most ambitious of these projects to date, taking portraits of every adoptable child in the state of New Jersey. The Heart Gallery of New Jersey would not be possible without the photographers, photo editors and numerous individuals who have all donated their time to the project. The photographers include Pulitzer Prize and World Press winners and freelance and staff photographers who are affiliated with or employed by some of the country's most respected publications. Their dedication has made The Heart Gallery of New Jersey a reality.

For more information on how you can help or donate to the Heart Gallery, visit www.heartgallerynj.com. Donations are needed so that the exhibit may continue to travel throughout the state and more children can be added to the Heart Gallery as they become legally free for adoption. Donations should be mailed to: The Heart Gallery of New Jersey, 1253 Springfield Avenue, Box 209, New Providence, NJ 07974, Attn: Janina Hecht.

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