"Picturing a Home for Every Child"
THE HEART GALLERY STORY

At any given moment, there are more than 2,400 children in the custody of the New Mexico Children, Youth & Families Department (CYFD) due to abuse or neglect. While most children are returned to their birth families after certain court-established requirements are met, some children can never return home again and CYFD must seek permanent homes for them.

The Heart Gallery, which was created by CYFD in 2001 as a way to raise awareness about these “waiting children,” features stirring portraits which are created and donated by talented artists. Thanks to widespread media coverage, the New Mexico Heart Gallery has inspired more than 40 other states to create similar projects. See the Children’s Bureau website (www.adoptuskids.org) for more information about the Heart Gallery and adoption.

For 10 years, CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates), a local nonprofit in the First Judicial District, has provided trained community volunteers to advocate for the best interests of children who come into the court system as a result of abuse or neglect. The program recruits, screens, trains, and supervises these volunteers to serve as the eyes and ears of the court. As a natural CYFD partner, CASA has established a Heart Gallery Fund and will provide vital support by co-hosting this year’s New Mexico Heart Gallery.

Your donation to the Heart Gallery Fund will directly benefit New Mexico’s foster children by supporting the work of CASA, First Judicial District, and the expansion of the NM Heart Gallery project.

See insert for details, or call CASA at (505) 820-1500

JOIN US FOR AN INSPIRATIONAL EVENING THAT WILL CHANGE YOUR HEART FOREVER!