



New York State  
Office of  
Children & Family  
Services

**News**  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **EMPIRE STATE PLAZA EXHIBIT MARKING ADOPTION MONTH**

**– Public Invited to Heart Gallery Reception Thursday, Nov. 18 –**

ALBANY – In conjunction with National Adoption Month, the public is invited to a Capital Region Heart Gallery reception from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 18, at the Empire State Plaza South Concourse (Madison Avenue entrance). Portraits will remain on display through Friday, then the gallery will travel to other locations.

Thursday's reception will be an opportunity to celebrate with some of the children, families, agency staff, photographers and friends who have made the Capital Region Heart Gallery a reality for the past five years.

"There are special events across the state this month to celebrate adoptive families and to help raise awareness about the need for additional permanent families," said OCFS Commissioner Gladys Carrión, Esq. "In November and throughout the year, please take time to learn about the hopes, dreams and interests of more than 1,000 children still waiting to be placed with families or individuals who have love to share and are willing to guide them to their fullest potential."

Inspired by the original Heart Gallery held in New Mexico in 2001, New York State's Heart Gallery exhibits – with their professional portraits -- introduce some of the children and teenagers awaiting adoption across the state. The exhibits are made possible through the generous contributions of professional photographers and local businesses, working with the New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS), local social services districts and voluntary agencies, and foster families.

For additional information on adopting from foster care, adoption subsidies and the adoption tax credit, and to view photos and videos of New York State children awaiting adoption, visit the OCFS website at [www.ocfs.state.ny.us/adopt](http://www.ocfs.state.ny.us/adopt) . The site has information in English, Spanish, Chinese, Russian and Arabic. Also, people considering becoming a foster or adoptive parent may call 1-800-345-KIDS (5437) or contact their local social services district for more information.

OCFS is also collaborating with three agencies across the state on a five-year grant project offered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Entitled "A Parent for Every Child," the project is working to find permanent families for older youth with specific needs. For more information on this grant project, visit [www.parentforeverychild.org/](http://www.parentforeverychild.org/) .

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