



New York State

Office of Children & Family Services

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**IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**News**

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**EXHIBIT AT RENSSELAER RAIL STATION  
HELPS ADOPTION EFFORTS**

RENSSELAER --- Capital Region caseworkers and foster children waiting to be adopted joined state and local officials today at the CDTA Rensselaer Rail Station to view the Heart Gallery's traveling photo exhibit and share good news. Six of the dozen youth featured in the exhibit last year have been adopted.

New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) Executive Deputy Commissioner Bill Gettman noted that adoptions from foster care were up 3% across the state in 2010. He reported that in the four counties of the Capital District, there were 89 adoptions in 2010 --- up 17%. In the past five years 386 children were adopted in the Capital District.

Gettman thanked CDTA and other organizations who offer high visibility venues for the Heart Gallery's traveling photo exhibit. "Travelers looked into the eyes of these children and opened their hearts and homes. These young people are New York's future."

He also praised the work of county and not-for-profit staff for their tireless efforts helping children find forever families. While adoptions may be up locally, there's still over 1000 children across the state available for adoption and in need of a family.

The train station display features larger-than-life-size single portraits and collages of youth from across the state who are awaiting their "forever families," along with portraits of capital region youth. The display is a cooperative effort of the New York State Office of Children & Family Services (OCFS), which oversees adoption; the Capital District Transportation Authority (CDTA), rail station operator; Capital Region Heart Gallery; and professional photographers who donated their time and talent.

In addition to Gettman, participants today included Rensselaer County Executive Director Kathy Jimino, Albany County Commissioner of Children, Youth and Families Colette Poulin, Capital Region Heart Gallery Director Carol VanValkenburg, and CDTA Manager of Corporate Communications Margo Janack.

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). For more information about Heart Galleries in New York State, visit the OCFS website or the Heart Gallery of America website, [www.heartgalleryofamerica.org](http://www.heartgalleryofamerica.org).

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