

The North Carolina Heart Gallery is a photography exhibition of children in the North Carolina foster care system that are available for adoption and in need of adoptive homes. The first Heart Gallery in North Carolina premiered in Greensboro in 2005. The NC Kids Program, based in Raleigh, North Carolina through the Division of Social Services maintains and manages the organization and dissemination of the gallery.

The Heart Gallery matches children who are waiting for adoption with professional photographers who are willing to voluntarily and free of charge offer their talents to take portraits of these children. The portraits of the children are submitted to the NC Kids Program for the Heart Gallery and printed by the North Carolina Division of Social Services.

Once the Heart Gallery is completed, it is released to exhibitors who display the photographs in an effort to increase awareness of the need for adoption from foster care and also recruit foster and adoptive parents for both the specific children included in the exhibition as well as the other children in North Carolina who are waiting for forever families. Exhibitors in the past have included hospitals, malls, art and performance venues, businesses, churches, libraries, private child placing agencies, local departments of social services, and many more.

The Heart Gallery introduces a wide variety of people to adoption through foster care and has had success throughout the country in locating permanent adoptive homes for children in foster care. It is our hope that by using the skills of professional photographers, each child’s spirit and remarkable personality will shine through in the photographs included in the exhibition.

When available, each full gallery includes photographs available in multiple sizes, multiple display options such as easels, large table top tri-boards, and individual table top picture display stands. While there is a maximum number of photographs available in each Heart Gallery, they can be broken down into smaller galleries depending on the display options in a particular space. Travel for the Heart Gallery will be arranged individually with the display organizer. The Heart Gallery is available for both one day events as well as longer exhibitions.

If you are interested in learning more about the North Carolina Heart Gallery, volunteering as a photographer, or displaying the North Carolina Heart Gallery please contact NC Kids staff at nc.kids@dhhs.nc.gov or 877-625-4371.

If you are a County Department of Social Services staff member and would like more information about how to feature a child in the NC Heart Gallery please reach out to your county’s NC Kids Consultant directly or use the general contact information above.