



**Date:** Nov. 5, 2008

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## **Heart Gallery of Oregon Comes to Grants Pass**

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### **A Gallery of children waiting for forever homes**

Grants Pass - The Heart Gallery of Oregon, a traveling exhibit featuring professional photographs of Oregon children waiting for families, opens in Grants Pass Nov. 15. It is the first time the exhibit has come to Grants Pass, and a fitting time, as November is National Adoption Month.

The exhibit will be on public display at the Guild Building, 1867 Williams Hwy, from Nov. 15 to Dec. 12, during Guild business hours from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. An opening event with light refreshments will launch the exhibit on Saturday, Nov. 15, from 9 to 5 p.m., with speakers from 10 a.m. to noon.

Speakers will share stories of how adoption has touched their lives, and the vital mission of finding loving, safe and permanent homes for children in the care of the state. Information about the adoption process and foster care will be available.

"Every child deserves a permanent, loving family," said Deborah Collins, an adoptions certifier for DHS in Jackson County, and co-founder of the Heart Gallery of Oregon. "We hope that the Heart Gallery display will help children find those families. It's based on the simple fact that a picture is worth a thousand words."

The Heart Gallery raises awareness of the need for loving homes for children by putting real faces on the issue. Outstanding photographers aim to capture the essence of each child's personality in their portraits. Where the Heart Gallery goes, inquiries about foster care and adoption opportunities increase.

The Heart Gallery of Oregon began in 2007 and, after its first year on display, nearly three-fourths of the children featured in the exhibit were either placed in permanent homes or paired up with prospective families.

Dozens of professional photographers donated their time and talent to the Heart Gallery Project. Sponsors for the Grants Pass event include The Guild Building, Costco, Dutch Brothers, Wild River Brewery & Albertsons.

The gallery can also be viewed online at [www.heartgalleryoregon.org](http://www.heartgalleryoregon.org). For more information, call Deborah Collins at 541-864-8710.

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