



CONTACTS:

**The Heart Gallery:**

Janina Scheytt Hecht, Vice-President  
(908) 334-2474

Susan Hayes, Media  
(212) 533-4472

**HEART GALLERY OF NEW JERSEY ANNOUNCES OPENING OF EXHIBIT AT  
LIBERTY SCIENCE CENTER**

**Public to View Portraits of New Jersey Foster Children  
Taken By World Renowned Photographers**

**June 8, 2005 – Jersey City, N.J.**--- The Heart Gallery of New Jersey, Inc. announced today the grand opening of its first public exhibition from June 12-29 at Liberty Science Center, Jersey City, N.J. The Heart Gallery is dedicated to raising awareness of New Jersey's foster children who are legally free for adoption and are in need of finding permanent homes. The Heart Gallery utilizes the donated time of award-winning professional photographers to take portraits that help capture the spirit of children in the foster care system. More than 300 portraits will be on display for the first time on two floors of the Liberty Science Center.

“More than 150 photographers who are committed to making an impact on the lives of these children have given us the gift of their time and talent, making this exhibit possible,” said Najlah Feanny Hicks, president of the Heart Gallery. “We are thrilled that the public will now have a chance to view these portraits in person, get to know the children and possibly take action to see if adoption may be right for them.”

This is the first stop of a multi-city tour of these extraordinary and touching portraits. The Heart Gallery portraits and photographers have been featured on NBC's Today show, on the pages of *The New York Times*, *People* and *Parade Magazine* and the Heart Gallery photographers were chosen as Peter Jennings's “Person of the Week” for ABC World News Tonight.

The Heart Gallery has set an ambitious goal of taking photographs of more than 300 children who are currently legally free for adoption in the state of New Jersey. The photographers include Pulitzer Prize and World Press winners who gave their time with no compensation to make The Heart Gallery of New Jersey a reality. As new photographs are taken, these portraits are added to the Heart Gallery website, [www.heartgallerynj.com](http://www.heartgallerynj.com). The website has received more than nine million visitors since it was created in March 2005. However, the exhibition at Liberty Science Center will be the first time the portraits have been physically assembled in one place.

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*Heart Gallery of New Jersey cont.*

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“Liberty Science Center is dedicated to serving the children of our community, and we could not think of a more fitting place for this exhibit,” said Emlyn Koster, Ph.D., president and CEO, Liberty Science Center. The Liberty Science Center has generously donated its facilities to the Heart Gallery for this first public viewing.

All of the children featured in the Heart Gallery are photographed with the permission of the New Jersey Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS), the state agency responsible for their care. The photographers involved followed guidelines set by DYFS and met with caseworkers responsible for the children. All the children involved in the program are legally free for adoption.

*About the Heart Gallery of New Jersey*

The Heart Gallery of New Jersey is based upon the efforts of Heart Gallery projects that were initiated in multiple cities across the United States. The Heart Gallery of New Jersey is the most ambitious of these projects to date, taking portraits of every adoptable child in the state of New Jersey. The Heart Gallery of New Jersey would not be possible without the help of the photographers and photo editors who provide their time to the Heart Gallery. These photographers include Pulitzer Prize and World Press winners, freelance and staff photographers who are affiliated with or employed by some of the country’s most respected publications who gave their time with no compensation to make The Heart Gallery of New Jersey a reality.

For more information on how you can help or donate to the Heart Gallery, visit [www.heartgallerynj.com](http://www.heartgallerynj.com).

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