Region 11

The Heart Galleries of Texas is transforming the future for youth who have experienced foster care. Backed by $24 million in funding from the 88th and 89th Legislative Sessions, Texas is expanding the Heart Gallery model statewide and building a powerful network of post-adoption support and training. This includes dedicated post-adopt funding distributed to organizations across the regions to help families stay connected to resources long after adoption—ensuring lasting stability and healing.

This investment ensures that families formed through adoption, kinship, and guardianship receive the tools and resources they need to thrive. By strengthening families through these regional partnerships, the Heart Galleries are helping children find lifelong belonging and preventing re-entry into foster care—creating brighter futures across Texas.

About the Heart Gallery of South Texas

Heart Gallery Organization: Foster Angels of South Texas
Website: http://www.heartgallerystx.org/
Launch Event: March 26, 2024

The Heart Gallery of South Texas launched in 2024 as a program of Foster Angels of South Texas. From the start, they built a strong partnership and referral relationship with DFPS, ensuring every child in the region had the opportunity to share their story with dignity, in a way they felt comfortable and proud of. With staff who bring both professional expertise and lived experience as an adoptive parent, the gallery excels at capturing each child's personality and journey while honoring their voice.

Covering a vast 19-county region from Laredo to Corpus Christi and down to Brownsville, the Heart Gallery strategically places staff across the area and is working to engage volunteers to manage exhibits to ensure that every community is represented. Their engaging and highly personal outreach connects meaningfully and powerfully with families and the broader public to raise awareness about children waiting for adoption. Of the 121 children featured this year, 26 have found adoptive homes, turning carefully told stories into lasting family connections.

Impact in FY25

121	**Children featured on a Heart Gallery website**
84	**Exhibits**
26	**Children removed from Heart Gallery due to adoptive placement**
57K	**Heart Gallery website clicks**
66	**Clients received 750 sessions of mental health services**
51	**Families received respite care**
187	**Youth participated in normalcy activities**
149	**Attended family bonding activities, camps and other events**

In Region 11, the Heart Gallery's post-adoption work continues to stretch across a vast and diverse landscape. Families in Corpus Christi are fully engaged, making strong use of mental health services, respite care, family activities, and support groups that help strengthen connections and resilience. Reaching families in other parts of the region, like the Rio Grande Valley and Laredo, has required extra outreach and coordination to bridge gaps in access and awareness. This region is committed to training professionals, expanding networks, and ensuring that more families, no matter where they live, can find the support they need to thrive after adoption.

Heart Galleries of Texas is a collaboration between The Moritz Center for Societal Impact, Texas Institute for Child & Family Wellbeing and The Center for Child & Family Studies.