Region 4

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 East Texas

Heart Gallery Organization: 4Kids4Families
Website: https://heartgalleryetx.org/
Launch Event: August 20, 2024

The Heart Gallery East Texas was launched in 2024 through a powerful partnership between The Fostering Collective and 4Kids4Families, the region's Single Source Continuum Contractor. It's a shining example of what's possible when communities set aside individual agendas to truly come together for children. From the start, the team built a seamless referral process, quickly capturing and featuring children's photos so their stories could be shared. Their outreach is highly personal, led by staff who bring both professional expertise and lived experience as adoptive parents—walking authentically alongside families in their journeys.

Impact in FY25

80	**Children featured on a Heart Gallery website**
197	**Exhibits**
21	**Children removed from Heart Gallery due to adoptive placement**
238K	**Heart Gallery website clicks**
75	**Families received basic or emergency assistance**
50	**Clients received mental health services**
1,342	**Family members participated in family bonding activities, camps and other events**
927	**Parent coaching sessions were provided**

Community engagement is at the heart of their work. From churches to local businesses to government partners, the Heart Gallery East Texas reached an estimated 35,000 people this year through in-person efforts. Their regular news segment keeps children's stories front and center, while community events bring people together in powerful ways. At their most recent fundraiser, 650 attendees raised $160,000 to support local efforts—a clear sign of the community's commitment to its children. And the results are life-changing: of the 80 children featured this year, 21 have already found adoptive homes—bringing the total since Heart Gallery East Texas began to 40 children now in forever families

Beyond helping children find families, the Heart Gallery East Texas is also making sure those families are supported every step of the way. Covering all 23 counties in the region, they provide real, tangible help - covering emergency needs, counseling services, family camps, support groups, and respite weekends that give parents a chance to recharge. They've also trained professionals who walk alongside families through the ups and downs of adoption. These efforts have created a circle of care that helps families stay strong, connected, and thriving long after adoption day.

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.