Region 6

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 Greater Houston

Heart Gallery Organization: BE A Resource (BEAR)
Website: http://heartgalleryhouston.org/
Launch Event: March 20, 2024

The Heart Gallery of Greater Houston officially launched under BE A Resource (BEAR), building on earlier local efforts that had paused during the pandemic. Since its relaunch in March 2024, the gallery has already featured 191 youth and become a powerhouse of community engagement. Exhibiting over 8,300 portraits across Greater Houston this year, they have reached more than 25,000 people in person and 121,000 virtually. Beyond visibility, they are driving real change by training hundreds of professionals, hosting information sessions for over 1,000 prospective foster/adoptive parents and inspiring the community to rally around children who need families.

Their photo shoots go beyond portraits: they are creating joyful experiences that help kids feel truly seen. From ice skating at Discovery Green to exploring the Houston Zoo and local museums, 176 children participated in 18 photo shoots last year, thanks to generous community partners. Each child left with not only a portrait but also a lasting memory and the chance to shine before families ready to welcome them home.

Impact in FY25

191	**Children featured on a Heart Gallery website**
538	**Exhibits**
36	**Children removed from Heart Gallery due to adoptive placement**
121K	**Heart Gallery website clicks**
39	**Families received basic or emergency assistance**
100	**Clients received mental health supports**
45	**Families received respite care**
122	**Participated in youth normalcy, family bonding, camps and other events**

In Region 6, the Heart Gallery used its post-adoption funding to build a foundation of tangible, family-centered support—from basic and emergency assistance to mental health services, respite care, and family activities that bring parents and children together in meaningful ways. Historically, the region faced challenges with collaboration, but partners began building connections and making cross-referrals to families access the right services at the right time. The result was a more coordinated, compassionate network of care that continues to evolve alongside the community.

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.