Region 7

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 Central Texas

Heart Gallery Organization: Partnerships for Children
Website: https://partnershipsforchildren.org/heartgallery-home/
Launch Event: November 6, 2024 in Waco

The Central Texas Heart Gallery, operated by Partnerships for Children, has been a trailblazer for more than a decade. Launched in 2014, it became the model program for statewide expansion - proving how powerful outreach can be in helping children find permanent, loving families. Drawing on years of experience, this team not only coached other regions in launching their own Heart Galleries but also used statewide expansion dollars to strengthen coverage across their own 30-county service area.

With new staff in Waco and Bryan/College Station alongside their Austin headquarters, they now have exhibits in 83% of the region, with full coverage projected in the coming year. They also walk with families through every step of the adoption journey—leading collaborative foster/adopt information sessions with child-placing agencies and participating in a long-standing adoption collaborative. Their *Forever Families* news segment has become a beacon of hope, sharing the stories of children still waiting for families. And the results are inspiring: of the 57 youth featured this year, 32 have found their adoptive homes.

Impact in FY25

125	**Children featured on a Heart Gallery website**
140	**Exhibits**
32	**Children removed from Heart Gallery due to adoptive placement**
110K	**Heart Gallery website clicks**
684	**Families received basic or emergency assistance**
60	**Clients received mental health supports**
27	**Families received respite care**
75	**Support groups with 751 attendees**

Region 7 ensured that every post-adopt dollar went toward helping families feel supported and connected. From basic and emergency assistance to respite care, family activities, and mental health services, every offering was met with strong engagement from families around the region. While previously many services were centered around Travis and Williamson Counties, the regional network has expanded to include region-wide service coverage, reflecting the team's commitment to expanding access.

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.