Region 8

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 Central Texas

Heart Gallery: THRU Project
Website: https://heartgallerysctx.org/
Launch Event: October 23, 2024

The Heart Gallery of South Central Texas launched in 2023 as a program of THRU Project, stepping into a complicated region. At its start, the area was split between the DFPS legacy model and the newer community-based care system, creating challenges in streamlining referrals. But with the transition of the entire region under SJRC Texas: Belong - a strong partner and champion of the Heart Gallery - the program gained the momentum it needed to thrive.

This Heart Gallery has become a force for visibility and connection, reaching more than 20,000 people through exhibits, community events, collaborative efforts, and foster/adopt information sessions. They are also leaders in the region's adoption collaborative, helping to reimagine foster parent information sessions and strengthen post-adoption supports so families can thrive long after placement. Of the 65 children featured this year, 38 have found adoptive homes - proof of the Heart Gallery's role in turning awareness into strong and supportive families.

Impact in FY25

85	**Children featured on a Heart Gallery website**
217	**Exhibits**
38	**Children removed from Heart Gallery due to adoptive placement**
31K	**Heart Gallery website clicks**
66	**Families received basic or emergency assistance**
749	**Clients received mental health supports**
24	**Families received respite care**
156	**Attended family bonding activities, camps and other activities**

Region 8 used post-adopt funding to surround families with care that met both practical and emotional needs. From basic and emergency assistance to family activities, respite care, and support groups, every service was put to good use, but the greatest need came through in requests for therapy. The team responded with flexibility, supporting both traditional counseling and creative, non-traditional approaches that helped families heal in ways that worked for them. A strong partnership with SJRC proved invaluable, ensuring that families across the region, including those in rural areas and in Bexar County, had access to the support they needed. Together, they built a network of understanding and hope that continues to strengthen families 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.