Region 9

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 West Texas

Heart Gallery Organization: One Accord for Kids
Website: https://oneaccordtx.org/programs/heart-gallery/
Launch Event: April 22, 2024

The Heart Gallery of West Texas has a story of resilience and community spirit. Early efforts at a Heart Gallery in the region began in 2020 but were interrupted by the pandemic. In 2021, at the request of Region 9 community partners, One Accord for Kids launched the gallery, leveraging their wide network of supporters to secure funding to re-start the program. The gallery has built a strong referral relationship with DFPS, but its team faces a unique challenge: many children are placed out-of-region, requiring partnerships with other Heart Galleries and frequent travel across the state to capture each child's portrait. 19 new children were featured on the Heart Gallery this year, and 18 of them were placed in adoptive placements, turning portraits into lasting family connections.

In Region 9, the Heart Gallery worked to ensure that post-adoption support reached families across the wide expanse of West Texas. The West Texas Together Collaborative in Midland and Odessa became a powerful anchor for progress, using funds quickly and intentionally to provide families with essential supports—basic assistance, respite care, family activities, and mental health services that benefit children and parents alike. Recognizing the ongoing need for skilled support, part of the funding also went toward trauma-informed training for clinicians dedicated to serving post-adoption families. The result is a growing network of professionals and partners working together to ensure that families in West Texas never have to navigate the adoption journey alone.

Impact in FY25

58	**Children featured on a Heart Gallery website**
56	**Exhibits**
18	**Children removed from Heart Gallery due to adoptive placement**
17K	**Heart Gallery website clicks**
56	**Families received basic or emergency assistance**
128	**Clients received mental health supports**
901	**Attended family bonding activities, camps and other activities**
320	**Attendees at 14 support groups**

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.