HEART GALLERIES OF TEXAS

HGTX Information Sheet

There are 5,000 children waiting to be adopted from the Texas foster care system. Through no fault of their own, some youth linger in the system and need additional advocacy. They are often older children and teens, sibling groups, or youth with complex medical needs.

They deserve more.

Heart Galleries bring their stories to life through portrait exhibits that showcase each child's individuality and spirit. These exhibits spark awareness and inspire communities to act, building connections that lead to permanency.

In 2023, the Texas Legislature made a commitment of **$12 million** to establish the Heart Galleries of Texas (HGTX), and in 2025 reaffirmed that $12 million investment—addressing the pressing need for all youth to have a family while ensuring transparency, accountability and strong post-adoption supports.

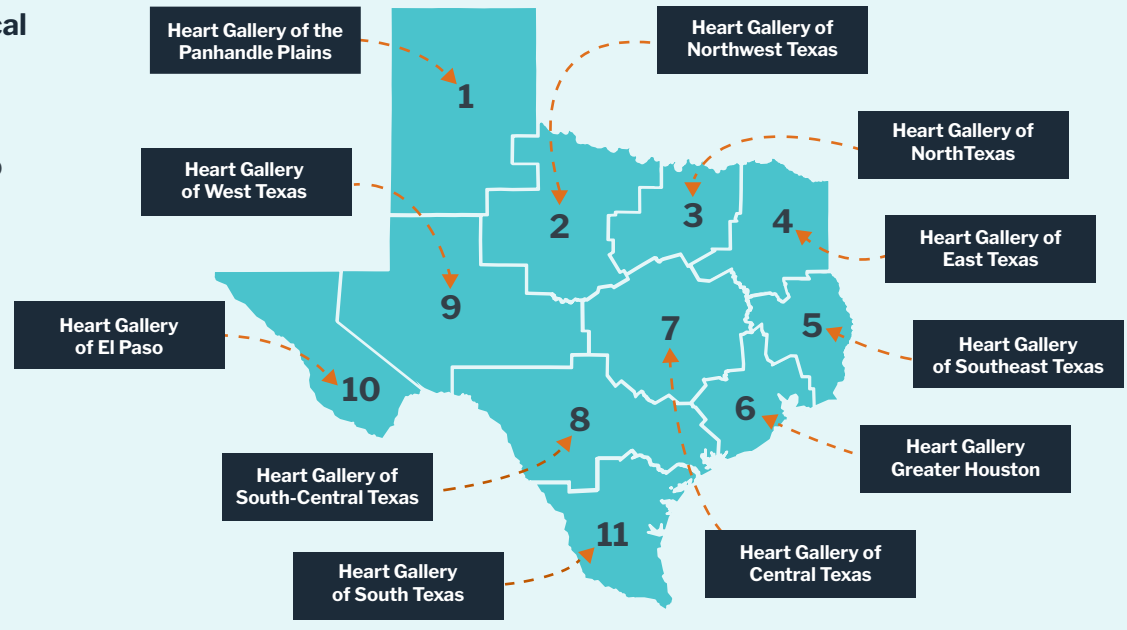
This investment is strengthening and advancing the work of Heart Galleries – creating consistency, establish best practices, and supporting better outcomes for youth across Texas.

Heart Galleries...

- Empower Youth Voice and Dignity
- Promote Community Connections
- Center Youth Consent & Collaboration
- Apply Trauma-Informed Practices
- Offer Post-Permanency Supports

Local Heart Galleries

HGTX partners with 11 local nonprofits to run regional heart galleries. HGTX provides training, support, and access to resources to build and strengthen local heart galleries and their communities.



Adoption Day is Just the Beginning...

Families need support before, during, and long after adoption day. That's why Texas invested in comprehensive **post-adoption and post-permanency wraparound services to help keep families together**, **healthy**, **and stable**.

We partner with and help fund **trusted**, **local nonprofits** to support families when the going gets tough. This collaboration allows HGTX to extend its impact —supporting families formed through adoption, kinship, and guardianship to prevent disruptions and strengthen family well-being.

Mental Health and Therapeutic Services

Offers adoptive families access to therapy sessions with licensed professionals to support emotional well-being.

Respite

Gives adoptive caregivers short-term breaks through respite care, babysitting, or Parents' Night Out events to recharge.

Family Bonding and Wellness Activities

Strengthens adoptive family connections through community events, camps, and youth extracurriculars like sports or art.

Caregiver Support, Groups and Skill Building

Empowers adoptive caregivers with peer support, educational workshops, and coaching to enhance resilience and caregiving skills.

Our Impact

In 2026...

1.6K
Children featured in a Heart Gallery

848
Children removed from Heart Gallery due to adoptive placement

1.2K
Families received basic and emergency assistance

1.2K
Clients received mental health services

1.1K
days of respite to families

3.4K
Coaching and mentoring sessions provided to families

What's Next?

Recognizing the need to meaningfully engage families from the very first touchpoint, we are launching a Train-the-Trainer program across all statewide agencies and Regional Heart Galleries to deliver consistent, high-quality information sessions that both inspire and prepare prospective foster and adoptive families.

Heart Galleries of Texas *is a collaboration between* The Moritz Center for Societal Impact, Texas Institute for Child & Family Wellbeing *and* The Texas Center for Child & Family Studies, Office of the First Lady, Governor's Commission for Women, *and* The Department of Family and Protective Services *(DFPS).*