Countywide Services Agency

Department of Health and Human Services Ann Edwards-Buckley, Director



County of Sacramento

Steven C. Szalay, Interim County Executive

Bruce Wagstaff, Countywide Services Agency Administrator

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE November 3, 2010 CONTACT: Mary Tarro Cell: 916-509-1396

HEART GALLERY CELEBRATES SIX YEARS OF GIVING HEARTS A HOME

Gala on November 6 features photos of children awaiting adoption, "happy ending" stories

SACRAMENTO – The opening exhibit of the sixth annual Heart Gallery of Sacramento will take place on Saturday, Nov. 6. This year's exhibit features professional-quality photographs of children awaiting adoption as well as "happy ending" portraits of families who have adopted children.

This free family-friendly event takes place from 5-8 p.m. at the Marco Fuoco Gallery, 6764 Folsom Boulevard, in Sacramento. The phone number is 916-716-1624 and 916-524-8913. Reporters may visit the Gallery before the event to view the portraits. Please call in advance to schedule a tour.

The goal of the Heart Gallery is to find homes for the featured children, and to raise awareness about the need for adoptive families. About 841 children are ready for adoption into their forever-homes in Sacramento County.

Older children, sibling groups and children with special needs are specifically chosen for the exhibit. The photos are taken by volunteers, some of them professionals and some of them instructors at California State University-Sacramento. Photographers try to capture the unique personality and lovable qualities of each child.

The Heart Gallery is a collaborative effort between Sacramento County Child Protective Services California State University-Sacramento, Sierra Forever Families, Lilliput Children's Services, and Court Appointed Special Advocates of Sacramento.

KCRA's Lynsey Paulo will emcee the event.

Heart Gallery portraits are available for display at public events. For more information, contact the gallery at (916) 217-1552 or email <u>info@sacheartgallery.org</u> or visit the online gallery at www.sacheartgallery.org.