



COMMISSIONERS
Jimmy Dimora
Timothy F. Hagan
Peter Lawson Jones

Cuyahoga County Department of Children and Family Services
3955 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44115
(216) 431-4500
24-Hour Children's Hotline 696-KIDS (5437)
Ohio Relay Service (TTY) 711

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Contact: Faye Nicholson, Senior Public Information Officer
Phone Number: (216) 881- 5709
Fax Number: (216) 432-3379
Email Address: NICHOF@odjfs.state.oh.us

Cuyahoga County and Adoption Network Cleveland Launch Moving Hearts Gallery

Cuyahoga County Department of Children and Family Services and Adoption Network Cleveland will host the Grand Opening of the Moving Hearts Gallery. The Opening and Reception will be held on Wednesday, August 26th, at 5:30 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at Cleveland Botanical Garden, 11030 East Boulevard, Cleveland, Ohio.

The Moving Hearts Gallery is a traveling exhibit featuring photographs of older children and sibling groups waiting for adoption. The Moving Hearts Gallery will feature 28 photographs of children in permanent custody of Cuyahoga County. Two exhibits will travel throughout Cuyahoga County yearly and reside at various locations for thirty days. The first location site will be at the Cleveland Botanical Garden beginning August 26, 2009.

Thirteen area photographers volunteered their time and talent to create portraits of the children that will appear in the exhibit. There are approximately 1,824 children in custody of Cuyahoga County of that total 647 are in permanent custody and 276 of those children have no identified family and are available for adoption.

The inception of the Heart Gallery was created by Diane Granito a foster and adoptive parent recruiter in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Heart Gallery of America Inc. reported, "Granito selected teens and sibling groups because they were children considered difficult to place in adoptive families." According to the Heart Gallery of America Inc. "Approximately 100 Heart Galleries have opened in 48 states and more than 1,000 children have found homes."

Heart Galleries have been featured in Parade magazine, People, The New York Times, The Christian Science Monitor and on MSNBC, CNN, ABC World News Tonight and the Today Show.

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Mission Statement
The purpose of the Department of Children and Family Services
is to assure that children at risk of abuse or neglect are protected and nurtured
within a family and with the support of the community.