

## **Photos to Grow Into Families in Florence**

Date ---- Eugene, OR. ---- A Family for Every Child, a local non-profit organization established with the goal of placing foster children into permanent homes, announced that it will expand its Heart Gallery program to Florence in hopes of creating a greater adoption rate around the state.

The Heart Gallery is the major focus of A Family for Every Child. The gallery is a photography exhibit that features professional photographs of foster children in the local area. Next to the photographs are descriptions of the child's interests and personality traits along with their current needs. Traditionally the needs consist of finding permanent adoptive homes but sometimes it is as simple as an older child looking for a mentor. The photographs are displayed in various venues around the city.

The exhibits will be introduced in Florence first and join other areas\_\_\_\_\_.

Organizers are thrilled for the expansion of the gallery because of its effectiveness in established areas. Since a Family for Every Child employed the Heart Gallery, questions and adoption inquiries have more than doubled.

By looking at the photographs people can visualize what their family would look like with the inclusion of the child. The photographs can easily break any stereotypes people might have of foster children.

### **Information on A Family for Every Child:**

A Family for Every Child was started by Christy Obie-Barrett, the mother of 12 children, 9 of whom are adopted. Christy was looking for a way to make a difference in the lives of more children. So in January of 2006, A Family for Every Child was incorporated as a not for profit business in Oregon. During the next six months, A Family for Every Child, was formed and developed into an organization that focuses on finding permanent loving homes for Oregon's waiting children. Its intention is to develop programs that assist hard to place foster children in finding their own forever families. The Heart Gallery focuses its efforts on what are considered to be difficult to place children. These children are often above the age of six or come in a sibling group.

For more information on the Heart Gallery of Lane County and A Family for Every Child please visit: [www.lanecountyheartgallery.com](http://www.lanecountyheartgallery.com)