

NEWS & FROM THE FRONT

A message from the heart

Chiropractor encourages foster parenting on the Harbor

BY LEIF NESHEIM
The Vidette

MONTESANO — A bright smile lights the face of Deaquan, 7, as he holds a Buzz Lightyear doll. Briana, 9, squeezes a stuffed rabbit with an enveloping hug. Eric, 17, smiles as he would in a senior portrait, full of plans for a future training dogs, despite his extreme hearing loss.

The portraits are part of A Family For Every Child Heart Gallery of America, an independent non-profit organization. Dr. Jack Dwyer recently began participating in the organization by displaying a Heart Gallery on the walls of Nature's Way Chiropractic in

Montesano. Each of the children is in need of a "forever home;" many are children more difficult to adopt because of age, siblings or medical conditions.

The Heart Gallery is a portrait exhibit displayed to raise awareness of the needs of foster children. Professional photographers volunteer to take photographs of foster children in need of adoption. The portraits are displayed with a brief biography of the children at businesses nationwide.

"We invited the Heart Gallery to our office in the hope that we might inspire good foster and adoptive parents," Dwyer said. "There are so many kids right here on the

Harbor that need good families, we just hope more forever families will step forward to help these kids."

Dwyer volunteers on the boards of the Children's Advocacy Center of Grays Harbor and the Arc of Grays Harbor. He and his wife recently provided a home for a girl who had "aged out" of the adoption process by turning 18 so she could graduate high school.

The experience inspired them to become more involved in the lives of children who need foster care or adoption. The Heart Gallery was one way to help, Dwyer said.

"I've had some patients talk about it," he said. Hopefully, the gallery will encourage some to consider adoption, Dwyer said.

He encourages people to

visit the clinic to view the gallery and for other area businesses to sign up to host a gallery.

A Family for Every Child operates Heart Galleries throughout Oregon and Washington and the Pacific Northwest, both as photo displays and on the internet. In June 2011, the Heart Gallery of New Mexico, one of the first Heart Galleries, celebrated its 10th anniversary.

Nature's Way Chiropractic is located at 209 S. Main St. in downtown Montesano. For more information, contact A Family for Every Child at (877) 343-2856, the state Department of Social and Health Services in Aberdeen at (360) 533-9700 or Nature's Way (360) 451-9994. Visit the Heart Gallery online at www.afamilyforeverychild.org.



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Dr. Jack Dwyer straightens pictures in his 'Heart Gallery.' Photos of children in need of adoption are on display at his clinic.