



The Lane County Heart Gallery

www.lanecountyheartgallery.org

"The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched. They must be felt with the heart" -Helen Keller

The Lane County Heart Gallery in Oregon is a local non-profit organization made up of volunteers in our community that devote their time, energy, and resources for the love of children. Professional photographers have volunteered their time and talent taking beautiful and compelling portraits of these children capturing their true spirit. Local companies and organizations are opening their hearts and doors to us, allowing the Heart Gallery to set up and display our show moving from one venue to the next. We work closely with DHS hoping to spread the word and plant a seed touching the hearts and lives of people to assist in finding safe and permanent homes for children in our foster care system that are typically considered "hard to place or special needs."

"A picture is worth a thousand words"

Looking at their picture you can't help to notice their eye's, each so different but yet similar, it's like looking through a window into their soul. You don't know them, you've never seen them, but yet you can't forget them. Their faces all so precious, timid hearts reaching out for help and all they want is acceptance and someone to love them the way they deserve to be loved. They want a safe place to call home and to know that they are unconditionally loved forever, for always, no matter what.

These are our children, and though adoption is not for everyone we all have a responsibility. They deserve a second chance at life, a family, a future, and a healthy foundation to build upon. We must come together as a community for a cause greater than ourselves ...we can't change history but what we do today will forever change tomorrow. Let's not let what we can't do interfere with what we can do.

The Statistics

*The average child adopted out of DHS of Oregon has spent, on average, 33.3 months in Foster Care, usually in several different Foster homes.

*A child is considered hard to place or special needs, if they are over 6 years old, part of a sibling group, have physical, mental or emotional disabilities, or if they are part of an ethnic group.

*30% of all Foster Children are over 10.

* 65 - 75% of the children photographed find forever families through their involvement with the Heart Gallery program.

The Lane County Heart Gallery Provides:

- information assistance, and referral in accordance with DHS
- impassioned volunteers dedicated to helping make a difference in a child's life
- advocacy and support to both awaiting foster children and families
- assistance to families in establishing or connecting to systems of support
- mentorship for "aging out" teens in our foster care system
- education to the public, raising awareness about adoption and foster care
- hope, opportunity, and inspiration for the future

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