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Antonio E. Garcia Arts & Education Center
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Photographs by:
Kristi Beach
Millie Harrison
Jessica Gonzalez
Sandra Gonzalez
Blanca Pena

Opening reception:
November 5, 2008
6:00-8:00 PM

Exhibit will be on display:
November 1 - December 31
The 4th Annual Heart Gallery of South Texas
is a collaboration between the
Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, Region 11,
and
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi

We are grateful for the sponsors and volunteers who made this exhibit possible.

Photographers
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi
Kristi Beach, BA student
Millie Harrison, BFA student
Jennifer Arnold, MFA candidate, project advisor
Reuben Njaa, MFA candidate, TAMIU adjunct instructor

Texas A&M University International
Jessica Gonzalez, student
Sandra Gonzalez, student
Blanca Pena, student

University Instructors
Barbra Riley, MA, Photography
Diana Cardenas, Ph.D., Technical & Professional Writing
Charles Etheridge, Ph.D., Technical & Professional Writing

Service-Learning Classes
English 3301: Technical & Professional Writing
2008 Summer and Fall Classes

University Administration & Staff
Dr. Flavius Killebrew, President
Dr. Anantha Babbali, Provost/Vice President Academic Affairs
Dr. Richard Gigliotti, Dean of College of Liberal Arts
Carole Peterson, Office of Community Outreach
Dr. Roberto Garcia, Director, Antonio E. Garcia Arts & Education Center, College of Education

Department of Family and Protective Services Staff
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Veronica J. Woods, Program Administrator - Region 11
John J. Lennan, Public Information Officer - Region 11
Rosie G. Peña, Foster Adopt Trainer - Region 11

Child Placement Agencies
Pathways Youth and Family Services
Spaulding for Children
The Children’s Shelter
World for Children

Carlos & Jason
Carlos (born March 1993) and Jason (born June 1994) are very close and want a stable, family-oriented home. Carlos is very protective of Jason and strives to keep him safe. When the brothers are together, they enjoy playing pool or just hanging around laughing or talking. Carlos is a dedicated player on his school football team and full of energy. He also enjoys playing video games and spending time on the computer. Jason is a happy and fun-loving boy who enjoys bowling and watching baseball games. Other favorite activities are coloring, drawing, working on puzzles, swimming, and listening to classical music.

Michael, Alma, Viviana, & Nikolas
Michael (born January 1992), Alma (born April 1993), Viviana (born November 1997), and Nikolas (born August 2000) are very close and like to spend as much time together as possible. Michael enjoys skateboarding. He does well in science class where he has built and launched model rockets. Alma plays the clarinet and enjoys the outdoors. Her career goal is to teach at the elementary level. Viviana is smart and affectionate. She enjoys reading and is learning to play the clarinet like her sister. Nikolas is full of energy and very inquisitive. He loves animals and enjoys all types of outdoor activities.
Alondra & Luis

Alondra (born July 1996) and Luis (born December 1997) are a dynamic duo that enjoy spending quality time with each other. Both are excellent students and relate well with others. Alondra is a gifted artist and enjoys writing. She enjoys tumbling and gymnastics. Luis participates in the Gifted and Talented program at his school. He enjoys baseball and Nintendo games. Both Alondra and Luis enjoy outdoor activities, such as playing outside, riding bicycles, and going to the park.

Alexandra, Jose, Javier, Robert, Trey, & Kobey

Alexandra (August 1995), Jose (born March 1997), Javier (born December 1997), Robert (born October 1998), Trey (born September 2000), and Kobey (born December 2001) are an active and energetic group of siblings. They all love animals and like to play board games together. They enjoy going to the park and other outdoor activities. When they are together, Alexandra takes on a playful role. Kobey is the youngest of the group and gets lots of attention from the older ones. Javier is the sensitive one in the group and tends to play independently. Jose will take on the caretaker role when he is with his siblings, while Robert and Trey are more laid back. They want to find a permanent home where they can be together as a family.

History of the South Texas Heart Gallery

The Heart Gallery of South Texas was launched in 2005 by Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi as a community engagement project to help the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services raise awareness of its foster adoption program. The purpose is to find stable, loving families for foster children needing permanent adoptive homes. Many of the children in the Heart Gallery are considered harder to place because they are older or in a sibling group. The Heart Gallery is a reminder that children never outgrow the need for parents.

This year’s Heart Gallery project was spearheaded by Rosie Peña with the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (Region 11) and Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi photography students Millie Harrison and Kristi Beach. Jennifer Arnold, MFA candidate and lead photographer for both the second and third annual Heart Gallery exhibits, provided guidance. Reuben Njaa, MFA candidate, helped expand the project by recruiting photographers from Texas A&M International University to photograph children in the Laredo area. Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi technical writing students contributed their skills to writing the children’s biographies.

For more information on foster adoption contact:
Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, Region 11
Telephone: 361-878-3545
Deborah Stein, Foster Adoption Recruiter
Deborah.Stein@dfps.state.tx.us
Telephone: 361-878-3513
Douglas Williams, Foster Adoption Recruiter
Douglas.Williams@dfps.state.tx.us
Telephone: 361-878-3560

For more information on how you can support the Heart Gallery project contact:
Carole L. Peterson
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi
Community Outreach Office
Telephone: 361-825-5966
Carole.Peterson@tamucc.edu
Jessica (born October 1991), Jason (born January 1993), Gracie (born May 2002), and Samuel (born April 2001) seek a family who is willing to spend time with them and provide lots of love. They are very active and are always willing to help. Jessica is the eldest. She enjoys listening to music and drawing. She plans to attend college to become a cosmetic surgeon. Jason enjoys reading comic books, playing sports, and has excellent drawing skills. Samuel likes collecting cars and enjoys playing at the park. He is fond of animals. Gracie, the youngest of the four, loves her siblings. She enjoys playing with Barbie dolls, coloring, playing make-up, and singing. They are a very close, loving bunch with big hearts.

Victoria, Johnny, & Michael

Victoria (born May 1997), Johnny (born May 1999), and Michael (born February 2002), all have independent and strong-willed personalities. They enjoy school, animals, swimming, and spending time together. Victoria enjoys helping others and doing her chores. She likes to do arts and crafts while listening to music. Johnny enjoys fishing and playing football. He plays the guitar and looks forward to attending church each week. Michael enjoys playing video games. He has a positive outlook on his education. They all enjoy music and are looking for a family that will encourage and guide them.

Crystal, Leroy, Jacob, Pearl, Rafael, & Braulio

Crystal (born May 1994), Leroy (born May 1995), Jacob (born November 1998), Pearl (born December 1996), Rafael (born March 2001), and Braulio (born August 2004) are closely bonded and desire to remain together. Crystal enjoys music and is learning to play the guitar. Leroy likes playing video games, working on the computer, and playing football. Jacob likes to participate in various activities. His current interest is health and exercise. Pearl is a "girly girl." She is a good student whose favorite subject is math. Rafael enjoys riding his bicycle and watching the Power Rangers. Braulio enjoys outdoor activities such as fishing and going to the park.
**Dominic, Britney, Ashley, Krystal, & Mia**

Dominic (born September 1997), Britney (born October 1999), Ashley (born October 1999), Krystal (born September 2000) and Mia (born April 2004) are captivating children. They like attending church and school and love animals. Britney and Ashley are identical twins with almost identical personalities and interests. The twins take on the leadership role when they are together and keep a close eye on Mia who is the youngest. Mia loves being looked after. Any opportunity she has for affection and cuddling, she will surely take. Dominic is the oldest and the only boy. He too looks out for Mia. Krystal is the second to the youngest and is the most independent of the five.

These children have found a new family thanks to the Heart Gallery.

**Alejandra, Gerardo, Carmen, Michelle, & Ricardo**

This is an active and fun-loving group of five. Alejandra (born July 1993) is a happy, talkative girl with a sweet personality. She does well in school and enjoys sports. She wants to pursue a career in criminal justice. Gerry (born June 1997) has a cheerful personality. He likes video games, baseball, football, and solving crossword puzzles. Carmen (born April 1999) is bubbly and enjoys music, dancing, shopping, and sports. She does well in school and is a member of the chess club. Michelle (born June 2000) gets along well with others and enjoys riding her bike. Ricardo (born June 2003) is a very bright and independent boy. He enjoys playing outside and fishing.

**Irene, Henry, Matthew, & Isiah**

Irene (born September 1999), Henry (born November 2000), Matthew (born December 2001), and Isiah (born August 2005) are a fun bunch that enjoys spending quality time with each other. Irene is the only girl and the eldest of the four. She enjoys independent time, coloring, painting, and reading. Henry likes basketball, singing, and dancing. Matthew enjoys water sports, music, and dancing. Isiah enjoys toy cars. The boys enjoy watching wrestling. All four enjoy swimming. They have been through a lot and need someone to show them affection and give them loving guidance.

**Adrian & Brianna**

Adrian (born November 1992) and Brianna (born November 2001) are looking for a family that will give them love, guidance, affection, and support. Adrian enjoys hip hop music, playing video games, and action movies. He is an ambitious person who wants to become successful in life. He plans to attend college after high school. Brianna is a sweet, joyful, loving, and playful girl who is very creative. She enjoys coloring, reading, and drawing. She has an extraordinary memory and does well in school.
Jacklyn & Jane

Jacklyn and Jane (born April 1993) are twins who are opposites in many ways. Jacklyn enjoys cooking pastries and loves bargain shopping. Her goal is to become a pediatric nurse or pediatrician. Jane, on the other hand, enjoys outdoor activities and animals. She loves fishing and hopes to one day be able to go hunting with a loving family that enjoys outdoor activities. Jane wants to become a teacher or a medic in the military. Both girls enjoy playing sports, spending time with each other, and want a family to help them achieve their dreams.

Alayna & Jaustiniti

Alayna (born November 2000) and Jaustiniti (born April 2002) are two young girls who enjoy life and love school. They both enjoy reading and attending church. Alayna likes giving Bible lessons to the younger children. She also enjoys playing with dolls, dancing, skating, and coloring. Jaustiniti enjoys coloring, playing with Barbie dolls, pony toys and watching cartoons. She loves music of all types as long as she can dance to it.

Christina

Christina (born May 1995) is both artistic and athletic. Christina loves listening to music, singing, and writing poetry. She also enjoys sports, especially volleyball. She has a bubbly personality and is always willing to help out around the house. She likes to cook and spend time in the kitchen either baking or helping to prepare meals. She is good with younger children and enjoys entertaining them. She also loves animals. Christina does well in school and enjoys family outings to football games, movies, shopping, and restaurants. She is looking for a family who can provide the guidance she needs to achieve her dreams.

Shaleash

Shaleash, (born January 1996) is best known as “Shae.” She is charming, extremely intelligent, and attentive to her environment. She has a strong and outgoing personality. Shae has the potential to be an excellent student and loves to read. Her favorite color is red and her favorite food is enchiladas. She is creative, dramatic, and loves dressing up. Other activities include hide-n-seek, frisbee, tag, and watching funny movies. She has a strong desire to have a permanent family of her own.
Karina

Karina (born February 1991) is a sweet girl with a sincere concern for others. She is always laughing and doesn’t let her arthritis keep her from enjoying life. She likes listening to music, watching cartoons, dancing, and showing her school spirit by being a member of the cheerleading squad at her school. She likes to play “school” with her dolls, enjoys arts and crafts, and loves animals. Karina needs a loving family who can provide her a warm, nurturing environment.

Justin

Justin (born December 1994) appears shy at first. Once you gain his trust, he will talk your ear off about video games and his plans to be video game inventor. His favorite outdoor sport is basketball, which he enjoys playing with his peers. Justin wants to be part of a family that loves and accepts him as he is. He will do well in a family that is strong, patient, and provides structure and consistency. He also needs a family that will advocate for him and can help him obtain the support he needs to achieve his educational goals.

Yolanda & Antonia

Yolanda (born February 1994) and Antonia (born June 1996) are sisters who relate well with their peers and adults. They enjoy swimming and watching movies. Yolanda is a born leader with great intentions and goals in life. She enjoys being with her friends and wants a family that is willing to support her and nurture her growth. Antonia prefers to be called Toni. She is very close to her sister and never wants to be separated. She enjoys being in school, and her favorite subject is spelling.

Donovan

Donovan (born May 2003) is an enthusiastic, talkative boy who is an eager learner. He enjoys playing outside with his toy cars. He also likes to color, write, sing, and play on the computer. He loves to give and receive kisses and hugs and hopes to be with a family who will return his affection. He likes to keep his things neat and organized. He needs the guidance, patience, and security of a loving family to help him keep on track.
Jessica (born December 1991) is a shy but affectionate young lady with a pleasant personality. She considers herself a morning person and is always ready for a new day. She enjoys swimming, rollerblading, and playing table games. Jessica is strong-willed and relates well with peers and strong adult leadership. This young lady is serious about being adopted and states, “It is time for me to settle down.”

Scarlett (born May 1996) is an affectionate person with a positive attitude towards life. She is very helpful and generous especially when others need someone to comfort them. Scarlett is sensitive to the needs of others and is always ready to lend a shoulder. Her teachers believe that, with support of a loving and encouraging family, she will succeed in her academics. This young lady’s favorite hobby is working with arts and crafts. She enjoys playing with Barbie and Bratt dolls, and she collects things that are pink.

Alberto (born January 1993) is an affectionate person. He has a pleasant personality with sincere smiles and hugs. This young man is always alert and curious about everything that is going on all around him. He always asks questions about things he doesn’t know so that he can have a better understanding. Alberto enjoys playing soccer, volleyball, and outdoor activities. He hopes to be with a family that is willing to spend a lot of time with him, especially watching family movies together.

Rebecca (born July 1992) is very strong-minded and has an extremely positive outlook on life. She has a passion for education and is determined to attend college to further her education and dreams. She wants to become an elementary teacher or a lawyer for the Air Force. Rebecca is greatly interested in debate, as well as math and history. During her time off from academics, Rebecca enjoys playing softball and basketball. She loves eating enchiladas. This young lady needs a family that is supportive of her dreams and is willing to go through life by her side.