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## **The 2004 Heart Gallery: An Art Opening with a Difference**

*“We have looked into the hearts of these remarkable children,  
and have shared what we captured there with our own hearts. That is art.”*  
*Barbara Van Cleve, 2004 Heart Gallery photographer*

*Santa Fe, April 21, 2004* -- In keeping with the adage that “a picture is worth a thousand words”, the New Mexico Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD) and La Familia, Inc. are hosting The 2004 Heart Gallery, a unique awareness-raising art opening, from 5 pm to 7 pm on Friday, May 14, 2004 at The Gerald Peters Gallery, 1011 Paseo de Peralta in Santa Fe.

Forty six noted photographers, including Barbara Van Cleve, Chip Simons, Jennifer Esperanza, Wendy McEahern, Polly Brown, Jackie Mathey, and Debbie Fleming Caffery have donated their time and talent to create one-of-a-kind portraits of some of the hundreds of children in CYFD custody who are dreaming of finding permanent, loving homes.

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The Heart Gallery was created by CYFD three years ago as a way to unite art and heart in order to raise awareness about these special children. The first Heart Gallery took place at the Gerald Peters Gallery in Santa Fe on March 9, 2001. On opening night, the stirring portraits and inspiring speakers, including foster and adoptive parents and children, moved the crowd to tears and to action. Adoptions directly attributed to the Heart Gallery include three young sisters, several teenagers, and two children who were adopted by their photographers.

The Heart Gallery has grown since its inception. It has been featured twice on the highly acclaimed annual CBS special, "A Home for the Holidays" and on National Public Radio, and has been the focus of articles in *The New York Times*, *Women's World*, and *Adoptive Families*. *CameraArts* will run its third extensive article on The Heart Gallery this year. Thanks to this media attention, other states and cities have been inspired to host their own successful Heart Galleries.

Special guests at this year's Santa Fe opening reception include the Heart Gallery children and photographers, KOB-TV's Monica Armenta, and Randy Travis.

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