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## Media Advisory

### First Annual Heart Gallery shows faces of adoptable children in Colorado

**Aurora, Colo. ---** The Colorado Heart Gallery officially opens to an invitation-only audience on Friday, April 29, before beginning a 12-month tour of public venues across Colorado. *The Faces of Adoption* exhibit features compelling photographs of 50 of Colorado's adoptable children, snapped by 29 local professional photographers who volunteered their services to raise awareness of the need for foster and adoptive homes.

"We're thrilled to have this opportunity to provide a more personal look at some of Colorado's children who have been waiting the longest for an adoptive home," said Rhonda Miescke, Adoption Supervisor for Arapahoe County Department of Human Services. "There are 729 children between the ages of 1 and 17 available for adoption in Colorado, and we hope the exhibit will inspire potential parents to give at least some of them a 'forever home'."

Colorado's Heart Gallery is a collaboration between Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Denver and Jefferson counties, The Adoption Exchange, and the Colorado Department of Human Services, among others. Colorado is one of 45 states to host a Heart Gallery since the idea originated in 2001 by Diane Granito, a foster and adoptive parent recruitment coordinator, in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Public admission to the exhibit at the Walnut Foundry is by appointment only, by contacting 303-394-3672. Members of the media can arrange a preview of the event, and there is a photography / video opportunity for the media next week. For more information, contact Katrina Seymour at 303-636-1945:

**When:** Friday, April 29, 2005, 6 – 9 p.m.

**Where:** The Walnut Foundry Event Center, 3002 Walnut St., Denver, 80205

**What:** **The Colorado Heart Gallery *The Faces of Adoption* Exhibit.** View photographs of 50 of Colorado's longest waiting children at this invitation-only, grand opening event. An estimated 400 guests, including state and local legislators, County Commissioners and Human Services advocates, are expected to attend.

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