

## Stark County Job & Family Services

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 10, 2015

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### HEART GALLERY STARK COUNTY ON DISPLAY AT HARTVILLE KITCHEN AND COLLECTIBLES

*TRAVELING ART EXHIBIT SHOWCASES 14 CHILDREN AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION*

**Canton, OH** – In time for Valentine’s Day, Heart Gallery Stark County will be on display at Hartville Kitchen and Collectibles from February 9, 2015 until February 21, 2015. A traveling art exhibit, the Heart Gallery includes 13 stunning portraits of 14 children who are currently available for adoption through Stark County Job & Family Services. These portraits were created by local artists who volunteered their time and talent to help these children find a forever home.

“The Heart Gallery is a beautiful display of artwork that brings awareness that there are children in Stark County waiting to be matched with a family and adopted,” said Deborah Forkas, M.Ed, Executive Director of Stark County Job & Family Services. “Valentine’s Day is about love, and it’s a perfect time to consider opening your heart and home to a child in need.”

“Hartville Kitchen and Collectibles is honored to host the Heart Gallery,” said Vernon Sommers, President of Hartville Kitchen and Hartville Collectibles. “Adoption is so important and has been a blessing to me personally. My wife and I are grateful we were able to adopt two children into our family. We wanted this blessing for other children who need homes.”

Heart Gallery Stark County is modeled after the first Heart Gallery held in Santa Fe, New Mexico in 2001 where foster children were presented to the community through beautiful artwork. Thirteen years later, there are more than 120 galleries across the nation that are using art to attract and inspire individuals to become adoptive parents.

The Heart Gallery has already travelled to several locations across Stark County, including the Massillon Museum, the Carnation Mall in Alliance, Snarky Art in Canton, and the North Canton Public Library. If an organization is interested in hosting the exhibit, please contact Stark County Job & Family Services at (330) 451-8086 or [susan.verble@jfs.ohio.gov](mailto:susan.verble@jfs.ohio.gov).

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