



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, March 6, 2017

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NYC ACS AND HEART GALLERY ANNOUNCE PARTNERSHIP FOR THE PHOTO EXHIBITION “BEYOND THE PHOTO: SEE ME, KNOW ME.”

ACS proud to partner with Heart Gallery NYC to feature photographs of children seeking adoptive families; Celebrity photographers to showcase individual beauty of children

New York, NY – The New York City Administration for Children’s Services (ACS) today announced its photo exhibit and partnership with Heart Gallery NYC to feature 50 young residents in need of supportive homes as part of “**Beyond the Photo: See Me, Know Me.**”

Heart Gallery NYC recently launched the photo project “**Beyond the Photo: See Me, Know Me**” to bring attention to a group of 432 older youth seeking adoptive families. The first groups of photos are currently [available online](#), and more photo shoots will take place throughout 2017.

“We’re thrilled to partner with Heart Gallery NYC once again to feature our incredible young people seeking adoptive families. Thanks to the talent and generosity of our city’s finest photographers, our kid’s personalities shine. A photo is worth a thousand words, and for many kids it can be the beginning of fulfilling a dream,” said **ACS Commissioner David Hansell**. “I invite all New Yorkers to go beyond the photo, and get to know a child in need.”

“Heart Gallery NYC is pleased to be working with ACS on this important photo listing initiative. The photograph of a waiting child in need of a permanent home is often the first introduction to an adoptive family. A quality photo that expresses the true essence of a child's personality can actually open the hearts... and homes of forever families,” says **Laurie Sherman Graff, Executive Director and Founder of Heart Gallery NYC**.

Notable photographers from throughout New York City have generously donated their time and talents to bringing the personalities of these foster care children to life through pictures. The list of photographers involved in the project includes Deborah Feingold, who has photographed everyone from President Obama to Mick Jagger of the Rolling Stones, and Martin Schoeller, who has photographed just about every celebrity, as well Antoine Verglas and Heidi Gutman, among other celebrity and emerging photographers.

ACS and Heart Gallery have long collaborated to produce these extraordinary photo galleries and exhibits. The most recent collaboration was the Portraits of [PRIDE Exhibit last year](#).



The Heart Gallery NYC exhibits have been displayed in numerous locations throughout New York City, such as Penn Station, Times Square, Brooklyn Borough Hall, Atlantic Terminal, Queens Center Mall, hospitals, and other iconic locations throughout the five boroughs.

For more information about “**Beyond the Photo: See Me, Know Me,**” please visit <http://www.heartgallerynyc.org/theChildrenImageCarousel.aspx>

About the New York City Administration for Children’s Services:

The Administration for Children’s Services (ACS) protects and promotes safety and well-being of New York City’s children and families by providing child welfare, juvenile justice, and early care and education services. In child welfare, ACS contracts with private nonprofit organizations to support and stabilize families at risk of a crisis through preventive services, and provides foster care services for children not able to safely remain at home. The recently released ACS’ 2016 [Foster Care Blueprint](#) indicates a 25% increase of children achieving permanency through kinship guardianship and a 5% in adoption rates even as the overall number of children in foster care continued to decline, among other significant progress made to improve case practice and outcomes for children and families in the foster care system. In juvenile justice, ACS manages and funds services including detention and placement, intensive community-based alternatives for youth, and support services for families. In early care and education, ACS coordinates and funds programs and vouchers for close to 100,000 children eligible for subsidized care.

For more information, please visit www.nyc.gov/acs

About the Heart Gallery NYC:

Heart Gallery NYC connects the artistic talents of renowned photographers with children in foster care who are in need of permanent adoptive families. The Heart Gallery is dedicated to raising awareness about children living in foster care and encourages New Yorkers to make a difference in the lives of 13,000 NYC children in foster care.

For more information, please visit: www.heartgallerynyc.org

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