Heart Gallery NYC

in collaboration with

HeartShare
HUMAN SERVICES OF NEW YORK

presents our:

PHOTO EXHIBIT

@ ATLANTIC TERMINAL

In cooperation with

Brooklyn Borough President’s Office

&

MTA
Long Island Rail Road

Photos by: Rayon Richards, Sarah McColgan, Stephanie Warren & Deborah Feingold
MEDIA ALERT

GRAND OPENING OF EXHIBIT AT ATLANTIC TERMINAL IN HONOR OF NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH

RENOWNED PHOTOGRAPHERS CREATE ‘HEART GALLERY’ PORTRAITS OF CHILDREN AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION

FOSTER CHILDREN IN PORTRAITS GET FIRST LOOK AT EXHIBITION

Hosted by Long Island Rail Road in cooperation with Brooklyn Borough President’s Office

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WHAT
A press conference launching the Bronx debut of Heart Gallery NYC and proclaiming April 20, 2009 Heart Gallery NYC in collaboration with HeartShare Human Services of New York Opening Exhibition & Press Conference Celebrating NYC Children in Foster Care Awaiting Adoption More than 50 Portraits by Renowned Photographers of Children Available for Adoption

WHO
Marty Markowitz, Brooklyn Borough President Laurie Sherman Graff, Executive Director of Heart Gallery NYC Norma Forde, Brooklyn Site Director, HeartShare Human Services of New York Patricia McCollin, Intake & Homefinding Supervisor, HeartShare Human Services of NY Jan Flory, Deputy Commissioner, NYC Administration for Children's Services Helena E. Williams, President of Long Island Rail Road Foster Children Who Are Featured in Portraits Participating Celebrity Photographers

WHERE
LIRR Atlantic Terminal Entry Pavilion, intersection of Atlantic and Flatbush Avenues, Brooklyn, NY

WHEN
Wednesday, May 18, 2011 Press Conference: 11:00 A.M. Media Call: 10:30 A.M.

WHY
Heart Gallery NYC connects the artistic talents of renowned photographers with children in foster care who are in need of permanent adoptive families

The public viewing exhibition schedule of Heart Gallery NYC portraits at Atlantic Terminal runs May 18 through June 15. Admission is free. Representatives from Heart Gallery and HeartShare will be available to answer questions from prospective adoptive parents. For more information, visit www.heartgallerynyc.org

Contact: Laurie Sherman Graff/ (212) 965-8699 / lauriesgraff@heartgallerynyc.org

# # #
Photo exhibit at Brooklyn’s Atlantic Terminal fosters hope for 50 beautiful kids looking for homes

BY ERIN DURKIN
DAILY NEWS WRITER
Thursday, May 19, 2011

For the next month, commuters passing through downtown Brooklyn's busy Atlantic Terminal will be greeted by the smiling faces of 50 foster kids searching for permanent homes.

Life-sized portraits of the kids taken by renowned photographers were unveiled yesterday as part of a "Heart Gallery" on display in hopes of enticing potential parents.

Malik, 14, moved into his latest foster home in Canarsie a week ago - his sixth since he was taken away from his parents at age 6 after they left him home alone for weeks, he said.

"I never found the right place," said Malik, an eighth-grader who has had to change schools four times while being shifted among foster homes all over the city. "I don't feel like a normal teenager.

"I'm hoping to find a nice family," Malik said. "I never felt loved by a parent before."

Eight-year-old William squealed with delight when he saw his portrait hung front and center at the exhibit.

"That's me!" said William, who is autistic and lives with a foster family in Boerum Hill. "I like my picture...[I'd] like to find a family to adopt me."

William has bounced around between foster homes since he was a baby, said Patricia McCollin of HeartShare Human Services and finding a permanent home is a particular challenge because of his special needs.

"You see how lovable he is, You see how infectious he is," she said. "He needs someone who's going to be open and patient and willing to learn."

The nonprofit sought out famed photographers to shoot the spirited portraits, which will be on display through June 15.

Deborah Feingold - whose past subjects include Mick Jagger, Alicia Keys and President Obama for the cover of his book "The Audacity of Hope" - did the portraits of Malik and 4-year-old Khadija.

"We all want them to find a home," Feingold said. "This was a way of using the camera to try to do something that would hopefully make an impact on someone's life."

Heart Gallery NYC executive director Laurie Sherman Graff, herself the adoptive mom of a 13-year-old son, said that even people who have thought about adoption don't consider the fact that they could adopt an older child from foster care.

Heart Gallery officials hope the photographs hanging in Atlantic Terminal will serve as a constant reminder of that.

"People can't help but look," she said.
Street Talk, May 21, 2011

Updated: Wednesday, 25 May 2011, 1:37 PM EDT
Published: Saturday, 21 May 2011, 7:00 AM EDT

MYFOXNY.COM - As Fox 5 partners with the American Cancer Society to provide breast screenings throughout New York and New Jersey, breast cancer patient Auria Miller shares her personal story on how being diagnosed has made an impact on her life, and how her daughter has served as an inspiration.

Also, some dedicated teens of Beauty Foundation Friends talk about a special prom they organized for teens who have survived and are being treated for cancer.

Then, Glenn Schifano and Bobby Mengez of Cancer Center for Kids explain how music therapy has made a difference in the lives of kids battling cancer.

And, a feature on the Heart Gallery which is a unique combination of art and adoption as pictures of youth in foster care are taken by renowned photographers, and featured in a gallery exhibit open to the public. For more info on the above topics, please log onto:

www.cancer.org
http://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Beauty-Foundation-Friends/163356570356340
www.beautyfoundationnj.com
www.winthrop.org/cck
www.heartgallereyny.org
www.heartshare.org
BROOKLYN-A photo exhibit in Brooklyn, of foster children is helping them find permanent homes. The exhibit is in the busy Atlantic terminal in Brooklyn and the pictures were taken by world known photographers. The New York Daily News reports:

“For the next month, commuters passing through downtown Brooklyn’s busy Atlantic Terminal will be greeted by the smiling faces of 50 foster kids searching for permanent homes. Life-sized portraits of the kids taken by renowned photographers were unveiled yesterday as part of a “Heart Gallery” on display in hopes of enticing potential parents.”
Not an Art Gallery But ‘Heart Gallery’

By Mary Frost

Atlantic Terminal Exhibit Portrays Foster Kids Looking for a Home

BY MARY FROST

Atlantic Terminal — Commuters spinning through Atlantic Terminal today might actually slow down — or even stop — when they encounter a portrait gallery of irresistible children and teens.

There’s Khadja, with deep brown eyes and ringlets in her hair; Jazmine, a puppy toddler with a whimsical smile; and William, bright and cheerful in his best Sunday suit. There’s Ashley, who loves to cook,bugging her little brother Angel, who loves sports, Geri and playing with his toy car.

While the photographs are striking, the images are not part of an art gallery — they are part of a “Heart Gallery,” and the children portrayed are foster children desperately looking for families.

Khadja, Jazmine, William, Ashley, Angel and other children shown in the photos are set to attend a Heart Gallery NYC press conference today at Atlantic Terminal, where Borough President Marty Markowitz is launching the monthly exhibit meant to open the hearts of potential adoptive parents. (He’s also issuing a proclamation declaring May 18th to be Heart Gallery NYC Day.)

Other celebrities were slated to attend, such as Rosanne Gold, a James Beard award-winning chef, former chef to Mayor Ed Koch and cookbook author for teens who adopted her daughter at age 12, and the award-winning photographers who captured the spirit of the foster kids.

Thousands of Kids Need To Be Adopted

There are more than 15,000 foster children living in New York City, according to the Heart Gallery NYC, which collaborates with the NYC Administration for Children’s Services to create the Heart Gallery exhibits. Most were abused or neglected as infants, then shunted from one foster home or institution to the next. More than 50 of some of the hardest-to-place foster children are featured in the Atlantic Terminal exhibit, which is hosted by the Long Island Railroad.

“We held a Heart Gallery exhibit three years ago at Brooklyn Borough Hall, and one third of the kids were adopted,” Laurie Sherman Graff, executive director of Heart Gallery and the founder of the NYC Heart Gallery Project told the Brooklyn Eagle Monday. “We work with Children’s Services and HeartShare, which is Brooklyn-based.”

While kids of all ages are in need of “forever homes,” some of the kids in the Heart Gallery are pre-teens and teens. Graff said, “We have four kids over the age of 17, Kids age out of foster care, but they still want someone to go during the holidays and a little guidance in life.”

People may not realize that they don’t need to be wealthy, married or the same race as the child they adopt. “In New York, prospective parents can be single, or in same-sex couples, and any age if they are ‘healthy,’” Graff said. Potential parents must attend a 35-hour training session and undergo a background check and home study. “We facilitate getting parents into the training session and meetings, and we do match parties,” she said.

The Heart Gallery website is full of success stories: Antionia, a happy little girl who loves music has been adopted, Angela, a teen who just wanted a home where she could feel loved and protected has found what she was looking for; Morgan, Juan, and Oma, three sisters who didn’t want to be separated, are living with a prospective adoptive family.

Visit www.heartgalleryny.org to see photos of kids who need a home.

The Heart Gallery NYC Exhibit will be on display through June 15.
Get involved . . . Heart Gallery NYC

As I entered Atlantic Terminal this afternoon I was pleasantly surprised to be greeted by large photographs of smiling children. These beautiful boys and girls are all part of the Heart Gallery NYC, an exhibit which showcases portraits of some of the nearly 13,000 foster children in NYC awaiting adoption, of which about one-third live in Brooklyn. The purpose of the exhibition is to create awareness and encourage New Yorkers to make a positive difference in the life of a child, either through adoption, mentoring, or volunteering. The lovely volunteers at the information table informed me that Heart Gallery and their partner organization HeartShare hope to draw attention to the older children in foster care who are less likely to be adopted than babies or young children and who may be close to aging out of the system. For those of us who may not be in a position to adopt you can still donate your time by being a mentor to an older child or teen. Stop by the Heart Gallery NYC table at Atlantic Terminal during business hours through June 15th to inquire about different volunteer opportunities.

For more information about Heart Gallery NYC go to www.heartgallerynyc.org

For more information about adopting or fostering a child go www.heartshare.org or email homefinding@heartshare.org
Brooklyn Borough President presents Heart Gallery NYC and HeartShare with a proclamation in honor of National Foster Care Month, naming May 18, 2011 as Heart Gallery NYC Day

Heart Gallery NYC Photo Exhibit at Atlantic Terminal

Photo by Wai Ng
♦ News 12 interviewing Norma Forde of HeartShare

♦ Heart Gallery staff and volunteers at the Recruitment/Information Table
• Rozanne Gold, renowned chef and cookbook author with Executive Director of Heart Gallery, Laurie Sherman Graff at the Heart Gallery Luncheon with Alan Fleming of Junior's

Kohtianna at the Heart Gallery Luncheon at Junior’s