

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 2, 2024

STARK JFS' HEART GALLERY ON DISPLAY AT THE MASSILLON MUSEUM

Canton, Ohio - Stark County Job & Family Services is pleased to announce that the Heart Gallery will be on display from January 9 to February 11 at the Massillon Museum, 121 Lincoln Way E, Massillon, Ohio 44646. The Heart Gallery is an art exhibition that pairs local artists with children waiting to be adopted from foster care, to create a series of special portraits.

This year's exhibition features twelve youth portrayed by nine artists. The community is invited to view the artwork and learn more about foster care and adoption in Stark County. Portraits on display will include:

- **Abigail**, by Alaska Thompson. Abigail is a teenager who enjoys school, especially math class. Some of her favorite activities include swimming, watching movies, and going for walks.
- **Ahna**, by Madison Miller. Ahna is a five-year-old whose favorite colors are pink and purple. She enjoys playing outside, eating macaroni and cheese, and snacking on candy.
- **Alexander and Jaramiah**, by Kat Francis. Alexander and Jaramiah are brothers who have a lot in common - they both like basketball, superheroes, and math class. They also both agree that families should do fun activities together, like shop at Five Below, travel to Disney World, and go out for dinner.
- **Brendon**, by Alexa Polinori. Brendon describes himself with two words: awesome and smart. His favorite activities are swimming, running, and swinging at the playground.
- **Coltyn**, by Kaley Weaver. Coltyn enjoys driving his remote-controlled car, building Legos, and playing board games, especially Uno. When he thinks about family, he imagines people who love and care about each other.
- **Hayli**, by David Sherrill. Hayli is a talkative and outgoing preteen. She loves fashion, playing soccer, watching Stranger Things, and performing TikTok dances.
- **Isaac**, by Heather Bullach. Isaac is a teenager who likes to have fun and make people laugh. He enjoys watching and playing sports, especially football.
- **Jennifer and Jamespeter**, by Tim Carmany. Jennifer is interested in writing, singing, and dancing. She has participated in school plays and plans to write her own book. Jamespeter likes to play football and basketball. His favorite subject in school is Science.
- **Kylie**, by William Keomany. Kylie is a two-year-old with special needs. Her smiles are contagious and when she laughs, she kicks her legs into the air like a dancer. Kylie loves Minnie Mouse, dogs, and cartoons.
- **Lexianna**, by Alaska Thompson. Lexianna loves to read fantasy fiction and watch movies on the Disney channel. She is interested in the arts and enjoys drawing, writing stories, and singing.

The Heart Gallery was created to bring attention to the need for adoptive families in our community. Stark County currently has 500 children living in the foster care system. Nearly a quarter of these youth are in permanent custody and eligible for adoption.

Residents who are interested in becoming a foster and adoptive parent can take the next step by registering for an information meeting. Please call 330-451-8789 or email Jennifer.Loomis@jfs.ohio.gov. Visit StarkJFS.org for additional information about foster care and adoption.



Isaac, by Heather Bullach.



Ahna, by Madison Miller.

###