

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 17, 2025

STARK JFS' HEART GALLERY TO OPEN AT STARK COUNTY CHILDREN SERVICES ON OCT. 29

Canton, Ohio - Stark County Job & Family Services is proud to present the opening of the 2025 Heart Gallery with a free public reception on Wednesday, October 29, 2025, from 5 to 7 p.m. at Stark County Children Services, 402 2nd St. SE, Canton, OH 44702. 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.

The community is invited to attend the public reception to enjoy refreshments, view the outstanding artwork, mingle with artists, and learn more about foster care and adoption in Stark County. Staff from the Division of Children Services will be on-hand to answer questions during the event.

While the Heart Gallery officially opens on October 29, it is presented in recognition of National Adoption Awareness Month in November, a time dedicated to raising awareness about the need for adoptive families in our community. Currently, Stark County has approximately 500 children in foster care, with nearly a quarter in permanent custody and awaiting adoptive families.

The exhibition will open at Stark County Children Services on October 29. It will then be on display at Church of the Lakes from November 1 to 7 and at Be Life Church from November 9 to 13. The show continues at The Little Art Gallery from November 21 to December 12, followed by a one-day stop at Second April Studios on January 2. It will then travel to the Canton Museum of Art from January 5 to 26, and finally to the Massillon Museum from February 1 to March 1.

This year's Heart Gallery features the following youth and artists:

- **Ahmi, by Tracy Dawn Brewer.** Ahmi is a friendly, happy one year old boy. He's active and enjoys being outside, sports, and exploring. He's very sociable and always wants to be held. Artist Tracy Dawn Brewer (Brewtifully on Facebook) is a multi-media muralist and community supporter since 2000. She created Stark County's first Augmented Reality mural in 2019 in Stark County. In 2024, she opened *Brewtifully*, a gallery and studio where artists showcase work, teach classes, and inspire creativity through hands-on kits and workshops.
- **Alyssa, by Kaley Weaver.** Alyssa is a friendly, outgoing teen who enjoys playing with dolls and her tablet, coloring, riding her bike, doing gymnastics, dancing, and skateboarding. Her favorite subject in school is art, and she gets along well with other children. The best words to describe Alyssa are kind, caring, creative, and great sense of humor! Artist Kaley Weaver is an artist and art educator based in Canton, Ohio. In 2021, she earned her bachelor's degree in art education with a minor in painting from Kent State University.
- **Blaze, by Heidi Fawver.** Blaze is described as kind, caring, helpful, and lots of fun! He is very active and enjoys riding his bike, spending time outside, and playing video games. In school, Blaze does well academically; he is intelligent. Recently, he has become interested in learning to crochet and create origami. Artist Heidi Fawver is a 2018 graduate of GlenOak High School and is currently a resident artist at The Hub Art Factory located in Canton's Art District. Her work involves the process of pyrography or pyrogravure, the art of decorating wood by making burn marks.



Ahmi, by Tracy Dawn Brewer

- **Dominic, Alexander, & Jasmine, by David Sherrill.** Dominic, Alex, and Jasmine are siblings who are kind, thoughtful, and show a genuine enthusiasm for learning. They enjoy spending time together and support one another both academically and socially. Dominic enjoys coding, Alex plays the trumpet, and Jasmine is a talented artist who loves to draw. Artist David Sherrill (ArrowHeadGoods.com) creates art full of fun and wonder. He uses found objects and vintage art pieces to create something new. David and his wife are the owners of Arrowhead Vintage and Handmade Goods in downtown Canton.



Kalaylah, by Heather Bullach

- **Kalaylah, by Heather Bullach.** Kalaylah, who goes by KK, is a strong-willed teenager. She enjoys music, dancing, singing, and doing hair and nails. KK describes herself as funny and laid back. She plays flag football and enjoys attending church. Artist Heather Bullach (HeatherBullach.com) is a portrait and landscape painter who works in oils. She is inspired by her Ohio surroundings and frequent visits to Charleston, South Carolina. She earned her Bachelor of Arts (BA) from Malone University.

- **King, by Kat Francis.** King is very sweet 6-year-old boy with a big personality. He enjoys playing outside and being active. Artist Kat Francis (KatFrancis.com) works in contemporary mixed media and collage. She has a passion for drawing and fascination with her surroundings and social history. Kat holds a Master of Fine Arts (MFA) from the Columbus College of Art and Design and a Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) from The Ohio State University.

- **Levi, by Scot Phillips.** Levi is a polite, sweet, and social preteen who loves making new friends. He is interested in reading and has a big passion for sports – especially football, baseball, and basketball. Levi would love to have a father figure or parent(s) in his life who would be there to play sports with him and cheer him on! Artist Scot Phillips (25th & Lincoln Mural Company on Facebook) is the operations officer at the Massillon Museum and a 2008 Kent State graduate with a BA in art history and a minor in fine arts. The Phillips Family owns and operates 25th & Lincoln Mural Company.
- **Ryleelynn & Love, by Maureen Magner-Sylak.** Ryleelynn is a sweet, creative girl who loves Disney movies, musicals, and having her hair braided. She enjoys swimming, unicorns, making art, and playing board games. Ryleelynn would thrive with a loving family who supports her kind and imaginative spirit. Love is a confident, energetic girl with a bold personality and natural leadership. She enjoys fashion, dressing up, and having her hair styled. Mermaids and baby dolls are some of her favorite things. Artist Maureen Magner-Sylak (SylakFineArts.com) is a Cleveland-based landscape and portrait painter whose work reconciles realism with imagination and heart. The subjects of her paintings are grounded in who and what she loves about life.
- **Oliver, by Madison Miller.** Oliver, who goes by Ollie, is a happy and active boy. He loves watching Disney Movies and to jump around on his bed. Ollie loves his tonie box and enjoys using his characters from Moana, Frozen, and Encanto. Artist Madison Miller is an arts educator. She is a graduate of Kent State University and holds a certification in The Impact of Trauma on Learning from the Lesley Institute.
- **Wyatt, by Andrew Wells.** Wyatt enjoys going to school. His favorite subject is gym, and he's excited to start learning more about science. Wyatt loves to read and is always looking for a new book to dive into. When he's not reading, you'll often find him playing video games or spending time with his favorite toy—squishy! Artist Andrew Wells (Wavy_Scribbles_Art on Instagram) has always had a deep passion for art. He is a proud graduate of Alliance High School, where he was fortunate to have amazing teachers who inspired him to attend the Columbus College of Art and Design. Andrew strives to make art that people enjoy visually and emotionally.

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.