

Volunteer Profile: Gallery wants you to have a heart

By Gloria Glycer -

Published 12:00 am PDT Thursday, June 5, 2008
Story appeared in SCENE section, Page E3

[Print](#) | [E-Mail](#) | [Comments \(0\)](#) 



Karen Seebach-Chang liked what she read about the Heart Gallery and became involved. Erhardt Krause / ekrause@sacbee.com

What: Giving Hearts a Home, a fundraiser for the Heart Gallery of Sacramento.

When and where: 6 to 9 p.m. June 7 at the 20th Street Art Gallery, 911 20th St.; \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door; call (916) 217-1552 or visit www.sacheartgallery.org.

The big attraction: Portraits of children seeking permanent homes plus an art show, auction, wine and microbrew tastings, food, music and more.

History: Founded in New Mexico, the Heart Gallery of Sacramento was initiated in 2005 in partnership with photographers, artists, businesses and community volunteers from public and private agencies serving children and youth in foster care. The goal is to help children in foster care fulfill the dream of finding permanent, loving families to call their own.

Adoption links: The Heart Gallery formally is affiliated with Sacramento Court Appointed Special Advocates. Additional links include Sacramento County Child Protective Services, Sierra Adoption Services, Lilliput Children's Services, Wonder Inc., Destination: Family-Youth Permanency Project, and AdoptUsKids.

Featured volunteer: Karen Seebach-Chang keeps one goal in mind when discussing the Heart Gallery: "My personal reason is just to see the children finding permanent homes. Sometimes matching a child with a family can be difficult, but every child needs a family."

As a social worker in child welfare, Seebach-Chang is not involved in direct adoption practices, but she is involved in the gallery. Her work is as a policy analyst regarding adoption. Active with the Heart Gallery program for four years, she first read about it in New Mexico.

"When people think of adoption," said Seebach-Chang, "they first think of younger children. But the needs are for all ages. It is a different experience to adopt an older child. It can be equally rewarding, but it is different."