



PICTURE PERFECT

ADOPT A WORK OF ART

Last year, Summer and Leonard Fillmore went to Westfield Citrus Park mall for some new clothes and came home with a photograph. A black and white image of a little boy with a huge smile and warm eyes. A boy named Colen who needed a family.

The Fillmores found Colen's picture at a traveling photography exhibit called The Heart Gallery of Tampa Bay. Local professional photographers donate their time to capture these images, each of which offers a glimpse into the eyes of the hundreds of foster children in Hillsborough County searching for their "forever families." Portraits are taken in settings that reflect each child's personality, from gardens and basketball courts to break dancing in the street. It's all part of a collaborative effort between the Children's Board of Hillsborough County and Hillsborough Kids, Inc. that's dedicated to increasing the number of foster and adoptive families—the hope is that, like the Fillmores, those who see the exhibit will be moved to action.

"We always wanted a son," says Summer, "And I knew from the moment I saw Colen that he would fit in perfectly with our family." Summer and Leonard already had two biological daughters, Aaliyah and Alexis, and they've accepted him with open arms and open hearts.

The exhibit is on display at University Mall from June 10 to July 28, and then at Westshore Plaza from July 29 to September 8. For more information go to www.HeartGalleryTampaBay.org.



Exhibit On Display At
University Mall, June 10-July 28;
Westshore Plaza, July 29-Sept. 8

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Children's Board Of Hillsborough
County And Hillsborough Kids, Inc.

Celebrating Five Years
Of Successful Adoption
In Tampa Bay