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UINTAH BASIN HEALTHCARE

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PRESS RELEASE

UBMC DISPLAYS UTAH'S HEART GALLERY

Helping Kids Find Their Families

June 10, 2014: A picture is worth a thousand words! And that's what the presenters of Utah's Heart Gallery are hoping. The Gallery opens to the public at the Uintah Basin Medical Center on June 13th. The unique exhibit will combine the talents of many professional Utah photographers to reflect the personalities of children in foster care waiting to be adopted. In photo after photo, the unique light in each child—a light sometimes buried after years of neglect, abuse, and low self-esteem has been captured through each photographer's art and talent.

What is even more unique about the Utah's Heart Gallery exhibit is that the portraits showing the children and teens at their best were taken and donated by the photographers. The hope is that the photographs will replace the typical mug shot in each child's profile and capture the spirit and personality of each and result in more children finding their permanent families.

The Adoption Exchange, an adoption recruitment agency for the state's Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS), is presenting the exhibit through donations of time, services, and money from many sources including local photographers, framers, volunteers, DCFS and Wendy's. Uintah Basin Medical Center has donated space for the exhibit which will be on display through July 6th. Thereafter, the exhibit will travel to other venues throughout the state.

Nearly 104,000 children in the U.S. public-welfare system are waiting for an adoptive family. Most are eight years or older. Many are those of minority backgrounds or in sibling groups. And, sadly, about 20,000 children "age out" of the system every year without ever being adopted, missing the support and guidance that a family can provide. For information on the Utah's Heart Gallery, adopting, fostering or volunteering, contact The Adoption Exchange at (801) 265-0444 or visit the internet at www.utdcfsadopt.org and www.utahheartgallery.org.

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Uintah Basin Healthcare is a community not-for-profit healthcare system, serving the Uintah Basin since 1944. Today, Uintah Basin Healthcare is the largest and most comprehensive rural-based healthcare system in the state of Utah.