



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Heart Gallery of Pinellas and Pasco Merges with Gulf Coast JFCS

The Heart Gallery of Pinellas and Pasco merged this month with Gulf Coast Jewish Family and Community Services (Gulf Coast JFCS). The Heart Gallery mission to increase the number of successful adoptions of local children in foster care, is well-aligned with the broader mission of Gulf Coast JFCS, to protect the vulnerable and help people achieve fulfilling lives by empowering individuals and strengthening families. Gulf Coast JFCS is a leader in supporting children and families through the child welfare process and has been a long-time partner of the Heart Gallery jointly working to ensure safe and loving homes for children.

The Heart Gallery will benefit from the added support and administrative services provided by Gulf Coast JFCS, allowing more donor and community resources to support Heart Gallery's adoption promotion services. In this case, children and the community benefit with costs contained and services leveraged. Gulf Coast JFCS has more than 500 employees and annually supports more than 30,000 people located in over 40 counties throughout Florida. Gulf Coast JFCS interacts with virtually every area of social services to provide a wide range of family support.

Patsy Stills, Director of the Heart Gallery, will continue in this role with Heart Gallery under the auspices of Gulf Coast JFCS. With Gulf Coast JFCS providing administration and oversight, Ms. Stills can focus more of her time and effort on finding forever families for children who are the hardest to adopt. Communication channels will remain the same via the website, social media, and email.

The Heart Gallery continues to rely on the support of caring individuals and donors to continue its important, life-changing work. To support local adoption efforts, save the date for a signature luncheon planned for **February 13, 2020, at the Feather Sound Country Club**. For additional information on opportunities to volunteer and support adoption endeavors, contact marketing@gcjfcs.org or call 727-479-1805.

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