



NEWS RELEASE

One Manhattan Square • Rochester, New York 14607
Phone 585-263-2700 • Fax 585-263-2493 • www.museumofplay.org

October 23, 2009

For Immediate Release

Contact: Susan Trien (Strong National Museum of Play)
585-410-6359 strien@museumofplay.org

Contact: Sarah Viggiani (Children Awaiting Parents)
585-232-5110 sarah@capbook.org

National Adoption Month The Heart Gallery Exhibit at Strong National Museum of Play® November 6–30, 2009

Open your heart. Open your home.

That's the message Children Awaiting Parents (CAP) seeks to impart at **The Judge Wagner 2009 Heart Gallery, an exhibit of nearly two dozen photographs of children in need of adoptive families, on view at Strong National Museum of Play during National Adoption Month from November 6–30, 2009.**

Twenty professional photographers volunteered to take the pictures on display in The Judge Wagner 2009 *Heart Gallery*. The resulting portraits capture each child's unique personality. Some of the children have been photographed participating in their favorite activities. Mark Soule, Executive Director of CAP, says "The Heart Gallery is a wonderful way for us to reach out to potential foster and adoptive families and really let these kids shine."

The first *Heart Gallery* took place in New Mexico in 2001. Since then, the concept has been replicated across the country. The majority of the children in the program are aged 10 or older, live in either residential care facilities or in foster homes, and are in need of permanent families. Some of the children may be part of a sibling group.

Children Awaiting Parents is a national, nonprofit charitable organization that recruits foster and adoptive families for special needs children who have been waiting the longest for permanent homes. CAP has been serving the community for thirty-seven years, bringing together more than 6,000 children and families.

The Judge Wagner 2009 *Heart Gallery* display is included with general museum admission fees. For more information about CAP, visit www.ChildrenAwaitingParents.org.

—end—

2—Heart Gallery

=====

Strong National Museum of Play® (www.museumofplay.org), located in downtown Rochester, New York, is the only museum in the world devoted solely to the study of play as it illuminates American culture.

Museum Hours:

Monday–Thursday, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.;
Sunday, 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m.

Admission Fees:

General Admission (does not include admission to *Dancing Wings Butterfly Garden*®):
Adults \$10.00; Seniors \$9.00; Children (2–15) \$8.00; Children younger than two free; Strong members free.

Admission to *Dancing Wings Butterfly Garden*®:

General Admission fee plus \$1.50 for members, \$3.00 for nonmembers; Children under 2 free. Entry is by timed ticket only. Please call 585-263-2700 to reserve and purchase tickets.

Parking: Free parking is available at the museum for all guests on a first-come, first-served basis. Please note that, on high visitation days, the museum lot may reach capacity early in the day. If space is not available on site at the time of your visit, you will be directed to additional parking at neighboring municipal garages (fees may apply).