

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### The Hanover Theatre to Host The Heart Gallery

# *The* MARE *Heart Gallery*

**Worcester, Mass. (February 5, 2015)** The Hanover Theatre will display the Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange's Heart Gallery in an effort to raise awareness about the immense need for adoption from foster care in Massachusetts. The Heart Gallery exhibit will be displayed from Monday, February 8 into March at The Hanover Theatre, located at 2 Southbridge Street in downtown Worcester.

#### **About The Heart Gallery**

The Heart Gallery is a traveling photographic exhibit created to find forever families for children in foster care. This exhibit is a part of The Heart Gallery of America, a collaborative project of over 120 Heart Galleries across the United States. Since its inception in Massachusetts in 2005, over 250 children and families have been photographed and displayed in various venues across the Commonwealth.

To create this striking exhibit of portraits, the Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange (MARE) works with professional and amateur photographers who volunteer their expertise, capturing the essence of these children and producing inspiring images for the display. Lisa Funaro is the Executive Director of MARE. In recent conversation about the placement of the heart gallery in Worcester, Lisa Funaro, the Executive Director of MARE, said, "MARE is thrilled that The Hanover Theatre is hosting the Heart Gallery. Increasing the visibility in the Worcester community of the need for families to come forward to adopt children from foster care is our primary goal and we are grateful to partner with The Hanover Theatre on this initiative."

Right now in Massachusetts, 7,000 children are living in foster care through no fault of their own. While most will return to their birth parents, over 600 of these youth are waiting for an adoptive family to be identified for them. MARE, a private nonprofit in existence since 1957,

helps to find permanent homes for these children and youth in foster care through awareness efforts such as The Heart Gallery. MARE's joint effort with The Hanover Theatre to display The Heart Gallery is part of a continuous program to bring awareness to the Central and Western areas of Massachusetts, where the need for permanent homes for waiting children and youth is as prevalent as in the rest of the state. The Hanover Theatre's president and CEO Troy Siebels said, "we're happy to play a part and are hopeful that the gallery will catch the attention of some of the visitors that come through our doors."

To learn more about adoption from foster care, visit [AdoptMassachusettsKids.org](http://AdoptMassachusettsKids.org) or call 866.306.6603. Questions about MARE should be directed to Guillermo Martin either via email at [guillermom@mareinc.org](mailto:guillermom@mareinc.org) or via phone at 617.54.ADOPT (23678) ext. 115. For more information about The Hanover Theatre, please visit [TheHanoverTheatre.org](http://TheHanoverTheatre.org).

### **About The Hanover Theatre**

The Hanover Theatre continues to draw over 170,000 patrons annually with world-class performances and headlining acts including Broadway hits ("Les Misérables," "Jersey Boys," "Camelot"); comedians (Dave Chappelle, Jay Leno, Daniel Tosh); musical acts (Neil Young, Aretha Franklin, John Legend); and everything in between ("A Christmas Carol," Maya Angelou, Rudy Giuliani, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre). Consistently ranked by POLLSTAR as one of the Top Theatres in the World, the theatre opened in March of 2008 following a \$32 million historic renovation. Over the last seven seasons, the theatre has established its place as a world-class performing arts venue, acting as a catalyst for the economic development of downtown Worcester. In the spring of 2015, the theatre finalized the purchase of a vacant, three-floor former office building with street-level retail space at 551 Main Street. The building will ultimately house office space for theatre administration, function areas, a restaurant on the ground floor and a performing arts school on the lower level. The building will open in summer 2016.

Worcester Center for Performing Arts, a registered not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization, owns and operates The Hanover Theatre for the Performing Arts. All donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

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