

REC'D AUG 18 2009

# HIGHLAND PARK NEWS

WITH NEWS OF HIGHWOOD



JULY 23, 2009 ★ A PIONEER PRESS PUBLICATION ★ WWW.PIONEERLOCAL.COM ★ \$2.00



## HEART GALLERY

Joan Schnadig, who owns Princeton Frame along with her husband, displays the Heart Gallery in the front window of their shop. The photographs in the gallery are of boys and girls, usually 6 and older, who are up for adoption or need sponsors or mentors. PAGE 5 (Rob Dicker/Staff Photographer)

# Highland Park gallery touts good kids

By **CHARLES BERMAN**  
cberman@pioneerlocal.com

Princeton Frame in downtown Highland Park is currently hosting an exhibit showcasing area foster children and teens in need of a home or family sponsor.

The Heart Gallery of Illinois is a touring exhibit of photographs and biographies of kids that gives viewers a glimpse into the lives of school-age and special-needs children, who typically aren't sought in the adoption process.

"The idea was to have high quality portraits of these children where their personalities could really shine through," said Dixon Galvez-Searle, communications coordinator for the Adoption Information Cen-

ter of Illinois. "People can see that, and to me, it's a more effective way to introduce these kids to prospective adopting families."

Rich and Joan Schnadig, owners of Princeton Frame, at 1844 First St., saw a similar exhibit while visiting their son in Oregon.

"We were so taken by it," Joan Schnadig said. "What touched me is that we are fortunate to have three healthy grandchildren, and we thought these children could use some help."

When the Schnadigs returned home, they contacted the Adoption Information Center of Illinois, which coordinates the Heart Gallery in the state, and asked to display the kids in their Highland Park

frame store.

The gallery will continue to be on display through the end of July, but plans are currently in the works to bring it back in November.

"The goal is to find someone to mentor these kids or offer them guidance, security, or just be their friend," Joan said. "It's not necessarily to place these kids in someone's home but to at least find a sponsor."

Since the Heart Gallery was launched in Illinois in 2005, 56 children have been featured and 21 of them have been placed with adoptive or guardianship families.

The gallery has been shown at 14 venues, including libraries, museums, adoption conferences and

---

*"The goal is to find someone to mentor these kids or offer them guidance, security, or just be their friend."*

**Joan Schnadig**

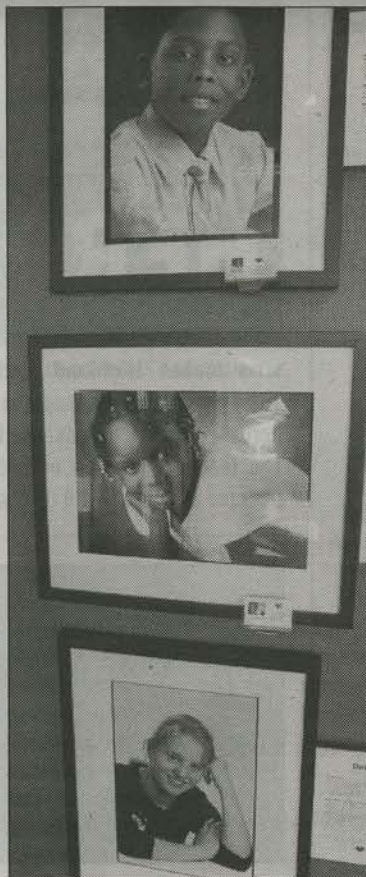
---

art galleries.

The next display is scheduled for July 30 at the 2009 National Urban League Conference at McCormick Place in Chicago.

The display will be part of a town hall meeting on foster care titled, "Foster Care in America: A Call to Action for our Children."

*Comment: pioneerlocal.com*



Joan Schnadig and her husband, Rich, own Princeton Frame in Highland Park. The Heart Gallery in the front window of their shop features photos of kids, usually 6 and older, who are up for adoption or need someone to mentor or sponsor them. (Rob Dicker/Staff Photographer)