

Welcome....



The Heart Gallery is dedicated to increasing awareness of children in the 12-county Big Bend area who are available for adoption and in need of loving and permanent homes.

The Heart Gallery is a group of volunteers dedicated to promoting adoption and bringing attention to children from the Big Bend area who are available and still waiting for their forever family. Along with our online presence, we maintain a collection of quality photographs of our waiting children for display at churches, businesses, events or any other location that might help raise awareness.

Heart Gallery Big Bend operates 100% with volunteers, including individuals and partners that are willing to donate their time and efforts. Our work would not be possible without the sponsors who support us and the professionals who give their time and energy. Every donation we receive is used to fund the costs associated with adding children to the Heart Gallery Big Bend and helping these children find homes.



Heart Gallery Big Bend Lookbook #2

“The world may not change if you adopt a child, but for that child their world will change.” – Unknown



Get to know the children by browsing this
Heart Gallery Big Bend Lookbook and the following below:



www.heartgallerybigbend.org



heartgallerybigbend@gmail.com



Florida's Adoption Information Center
1-800-96-ADOPT



www.facebook.com/heartgallerybigbend



www.youtube.com/channel/UCmUrcVrrrlH9N4hZQhnrsoQ



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Introducing Breall....

Breall is a bright young child who is full of personality. She enjoys dancing, singing, and gymnastics. She is spirited and likes putting on a show for everyone to watch. Breall attended a braiding camp where she learned many different braiding styles. Breall enjoys being active and around people who will match her high-spirited energy. Breall has behavioral concerns that are being addressed through therapy. Breall's behaviors are a result of trauma she has experienced in her short life. However, Breall is resilient and in need of a forever family.



If you would like more information on Breall, please email us at heartgallerybigbend@gmail.com and/or call Florida's Adoption Information Center at 1-800-96-ADOPT

"We must let go of the life we planned, so as to accept the one that is waiting for us." – Joseph Campbell

The Heart Gallery Big Bend is a group of volunteers dedicated to promoting adoption and bringing attention to children like Breall who are available and still waiting for their forever family.



Introducing Justin and Brandon...

Justin is described as a "normal teenaged boy". Sometimes he can be melancholy. He is fun to have conversations with because he is "very smart and has lots of trivia knowledge. Justin is very into working out and "calisthenics". He enjoys working out at home and going to the gym. He is thoughtful about his food and tries to eat healthy. He is very proud of the changes he has made to his physical appearance through working out and eating healthy and taking supplements. Working out is a big part of his coping mechanism and this is something he very definitely wants to keep in his life. He loves to cook and likes to cook Asian food the best, though, he has no desire to take cooking classes or anything formal. He also really enjoys football and would like to play on a team. He is interested in martial arts and likes MMA fighting.

Brandon is described as very smart and sweet. He is described as "on the quiet side" and is mature for his age. Brandon tends to like one thing at a time and right now that thing is fishing. He is all about fishing, fresh and salt water, but mostly he enjoys fishing in ponds, lakes, and streams. He likes to kayak out and fish in the water and catch and release, although, he was quick to report that he can clean a fish. His favorite show on television is Monster Fish. He likes to collect fishing gear for birthdays and that is what he spends his allowance on, and the thing he likes best about himself is "fishing".

These two brothers are very attached to each other. Brandon clearly looks to his brother for comfort and support. Justin is a very influential person in Brandon's life, and he very much looks up to him. They talk about all the important events or subjects together and Justin is supportive and patient when Brandon is dealing with emotional subjects. However, they do have normal rivalry between them.

The boys have two young adult sisters. Justin maintains regular contact with both of his sisters, and this is important to him. These boys are looking for a family that will support their ongoing relationship with their siblings and continue their healing journey.



If you would like more information on Justin and Brandon, please email us at heartgallerybigbend@gmail.com and/or call Florida's Adoption Information Center at 1-800-96-ADOPT



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*"When I have a family someday, I'll probably adopt. Adoption has always been something close to my heart. There are so many kids out there who really need a family."
— Tim Tebow*

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Introducing Skyler....

Skyler is a free-spirited young adult who aspires to be a Child Protective Investigator when in the future. She enjoys spending time with her friends. Skyler always wants to help her friends when they are in need. She loves to get her nails done and play around with her hair color. She loves spicy Takis, and her favorite color is red.

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*"Biology is the least of what makes someone a mother."
– Oprah Winfrey*



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Introducing Sarah....

Sarah is a very smart and cheerful young lady with dirty blonde hair and gray blue eyes. Sarah likes listening to music, watching movies, and going for walks. She aspires to travel around the world and wants to be her best self. She enjoys being busy and active and considers herself to be funny and outgoing. Sarah does well in school and possesses a lot of potential. She makes above average grades and is involved in extracurricular activities, including cheerleading and FBLA. She has indicated that upon graduation from high school she would like to pursue a career in social work helping young ladies like herself. When thinking about her forever family, she would like them to be "active," "loving," and "loyal."



If you would like more information on Sarah, please email us at heartgallerybigbend@gmail.com and/or call Florida's Adoption Information Center at 1-800-96-ADOPT



"If the standard route for creating a family had worked for me, I wouldn't have met this child. I needed to know her. I needed to be her mother. She is, in every way, my daughter." – Nia Vardalos

The Heart Gallery Big Bend is a group of volunteers dedicated to promoting adoption and bringing attention to children like Sarah who are available and still waiting for their forever family.

Introducing Jada....

Jada is active, friendly, and talkative. When she meets you, she is shy and it takes her a while to warm up, but once she's warmed up, she will talk your ear off. Jada has a genuinely caring heart. She is sensitive to the feelings of others and loves to sing and dance. She is very funny and is often making jokes and making people around her laugh. Jada likes all kinds of dogs and would love a family with dogs. She is open to having new siblings and is very motivated to find her new family. Jada would do best in a family that can continue providing the consistency and structure that helps her thrive.



If you would like more information on Jada, please email us at heartgallerybigbend@gmail.com and/or call Florida's Adoption Information Center at 1-800-96-ADOPT



“Do you want to do something beautiful for God? There is a person who needs you. This is your chance.” – Mother Teresa

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Introducing My'Kale....

My'Kale is a kind and versatile young teenager. One of his favorite things to do in his free time is playing sports with others such as football and basketball. My'Kale is comfortable spending time by himself and finding things to occupy his time alone, like coloring or playing on his tablet. He enjoys playing card games, going to the beach, playing computer games, and riding around on his scooter. My'Kale is well bonded with his brothers and would benefit from a family that would help him maintain connection with his brothers and other relatives, including his grandmother.

“Too many children in foster care are falling through the cracks. Be a hero, take the time to learn about adoption today.” – Bruce Willis

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The Heart Gallery Big Bend is a group of volunteers dedicated to promoting adoption and bringing attention to children like My'Kale who are available and still waiting for their forever family.



Introducing V'Asia, Viara, & Justin

V'Asia is an outgoing and smart child. She is described as full of love and life. V'asia is very attentive to detail and gets very engaged in whatever she is doing. V'Asia likes to dance, and she enjoys watching TV, and playing on her tablet. Her favorite thing to do currently is play with LOL toys. V'Asia get along well with her twin brother and little brother.

Viara is a happy and creative child. He really loves and adore his twin sister and little brother. He likes to watch TV and play on his tablet. His favorite show is the Power Rangers. Viara is described as creative and likes to bake. He can make a toy out of anything.

Justin is an active child and is the baby of the siblings. He enjoys socializing and being outgoing. He enjoys playing with toy cars, riding his bike, and he is very lively. He has a strong bond with his siblings.



If you would like more information on V'Asia, Viara, & Justin, please email us at heartgallerybigbend@gmail.com and/or call Florida's Adoption Information Center at 1-800-96-ADOPT



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“To give them [my adopted children] what I never had heals me. Some days I look at them and almost start to cry. I think, how can I love them more than I did the day before? But it keeps growing.” – Rosie O'Donnell

The Heart Gallery Big Bend is a group of volunteers dedicated to promoting adoption and bringing attention to children like V'Asia, Viara, and Justin who are available and still waiting for their forever family.



Introducing Holden....

Holden is a handsome young teen with brown hair and hazel eyes. He is full of energy and very lovable. Holden loves to give hugs and get hugs in return; he can be very affectionate and loves attention. He loves to ride his bike and enjoys most outdoor activities, especially camping and making s'mores. Holden also enjoys playing video games and watching movies and can be quite competitive at times. His favorite movies are Marvel movies, especially Spiderman and The Hulk. Holden needs a family with strong parenting skills, lots of energy and a good sense of humor who will be committed to meeting his needs.

"...perhaps there is no greater miracle than finding a loving home for a child who needs one." – Bill Clinton



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Introducing Leah....

Leah has a bright personality. She enjoys spending time outside, being around animals, and dancing to hip hop music. Her favorite animals are horses and pandas, and she loved growing up around horses and getting to ride them. Leah enjoys being a girly girl and wearing perfume or getting her nails done but is also not afraid to play outside and get some dirt under those nails. Leah has a strong connection with her biological family and needs to be able to maintain those relationships. She would benefit from a family who can support and encourage her in school.



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*"We look at adoption as
a very sacred
exchange. It was not
done lightly on either
side." – Jamie Lee
Curtis*

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Introducing Javan...

Javan is a lively and independent teenager. He enjoys spending time outside, going to the library, and playing games with his brothers and friends. Javan is also very protective of his little brothers, who he shares a strong bond with. Javan would benefit from a family that will help him maintain connection with his brothers and other relatives, including his grandmother.

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"From the moment we started the adoption process, all the anxiety went away."

— Hugh Jackman

Introducing Nathaniel....

Nathaniel who goes by “Nate”. He is very intelligent and is described by his caregiver as able to fix anything. He likes complex puzzles and “Mensa style brain teasers”. He does very well in school and makes A’s and B’s. Nate is a fun child who is also quite athletic. He is in a runner’s club and participates in 5K marathons and often finishes in the top among thousands of entries.

He is described as a “tremendous golfer” and often practices his swing. He also enjoys basketball. Nate has a wonderful musical ear. He is learning to play the keyboard but really wants to learn on a piano. Nate also has very good leadership skills and is trustworthy.

Nate has a sister that he is very attached to, and he wants to be able to keep in contact with her. He also has an aunt and uncle that he has a good relationship with that he wants to be able to keep in contact with.

Nate is looking for a family where he can continue his healing journey, where he can keep his relationship with his sister and aunt and uncle and continue to grow his talents.



If you would like more information on Nathaniel, please email us at heartgallerybigbend@gmail.com and/or call Florida’s Adoption Information Center at 1-800-96-ADOPT



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“We always wanted to adopt, and when the opportunity opened up, we did it to help change a child’s life.” – Willie Robertson

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Introducing Arabella....

Arabella is a smart and resourceful preteen girl with brown hair and a beautiful smile! She enjoys playing her guitar, shopping at Target, and listening to music. She is a social girl who likes to be around children her age. She also works hard in school and is very proud of her grades. Arabella is looking for a family in which she can receive the supportive and consistent attention that she needs to continue her healing journey. She does have a sibling with whom she wishes to keep contact, so her ideal family would support her in maintaining this relationship.



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“Anyone who doesn’t have experience with adoption wonders, ‘Does love for a child come through DNA?’ I knew it didn’t.” – Katherine Heigl

If you would like more information on Arabella, please email us at heartgallerybigbend@gmail.com and/or call Florida’s Adoption Information Center at 1-800-96-ADOPT

Introducing Jyer'Markis...

Jyer'Markis is a young teen with high hopes for his future. His favorite sport is basketball, and he wants to try out for the basketball team at his school. Jyer'Markis described himself as observant, social, friendly, brave, and resilient. Jyer'Markis communicates effectively and can advocate for himself. He wants to graduate high school and attend college so he can play basketball.



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“Adopted. Big deal; so was Superman.” – Christ Crutcher

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Introducing Hailey...

Hailey is beautiful young lady with a caring smile and a friendly and outgoing personality. She responds well to structure and likes to be a part of a team. Hailey enjoys going to the beach, swimming, playing board games, and watching television.



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*"However, motherhood comes to you, it's a miracle."
Valerie Harper—*

Introducing Serita...

Serita is an extraordinary young lady with a large need and desire to be loved unconditionally. She enjoys spending all her time outside, getting hugs, or sitting on laps. Serita has a big heart and a loving attitude. She loves to eat and has a big appetite for chicken nuggets. Serita's caregiver reports that even though she is non-verbal, she is typically easy to get along with and care for. She enjoys meeting new people and exploring new things. Serita needs a family who will lovingly commit themselves on a long-term basis to her care and continuation of her growth and development.



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"Little souls find their way to you, whether they're from your womb or someone else's." – Sheryl Crow

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Introducing Mason....

He is a playful child to familiar faces. He likes to watch TV and his favorite show is Little Einstein. He is energetic and likes to interact with caregivers. He likes playing the keyboard and playing with trucks that make sound. He loves to eat chicken nuggets and fries and enjoys getting hugs from his caregiver. He gets very excited when he is dressed up to go out. Mason requires constant medical care, and he is non-verbal, but responds through facial gestures. Mason needs a family that will provide him with additional support, love, and care. His family will need to be able to provide for all his needs for his entire life.

“I found real fulfillment through my children and through adopting special needs kids.” – Mia Farrow

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Mason, please email us at
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Introducing Sam....

Sam has a smile that can melt your heart. He is full of energy and can be very lovable and affectionate. He loves to help and will pitch in and help with any task you ask him to the best of his ability. He likes to be outside, but especially loves robots. He likes to play with them, watch them on the television, and talk about them. He shares very well with the other children he lives with, but his toys are his heart. Sam enjoys helping cook food with his caregivers and on the weekends likes to help with the baking. Sam is a good eater and not very picky. He also enjoys engaging in other activities such as coloring or doing ceramic painting in short spells. Sam is looking for a family that can provide an understanding and loving home in which he can achieve his potential. Sam needs a family who will love him unconditionally and provide him with a structured and secure home where he can flourish.



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“What makes you a man is not the ability to make a child, it’s the courage to raise one.” – Barack Obama

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Introducing Brayden....

Brayden is a smart, sweet teen with strong communication skills. Brayden is looking for a family who loves to be outdoors. He loves all sports. "I like playing sports, thinking about sports, and talking about sports." He loves to "roam" and explore when he is in a new area. He loves to exercise and be fit.

Brayden would love to have parents who enjoy exercising with him especially "a good jog around the neighborhood in the morning before school". Brayden does enjoy boats and fishing, but he does not like to be in the water. Education is very important to Brayden, and he is looking for parents who "will stay on me about my grades. I don't want parents who are just going to give up if my grades slip". Brayden enjoys attending church and being involved in church groups but does not feel he is significantly religious.

He loves listening to music and finds this is a good way for him to spend time with himself. Brayden also does like to play video games "at night, after the sun goes down", otherwise he prefers being outside doing an outdoor activity. He likes pets of all kinds (other than cats) and he likes to read James Patterson books. He needs a family where he can be the youngest or only child in the home. Brayden has a great deal of potential and loads of personality!

"...He is our son. He was meant to be ours...he was meant to be matched with us. So, it's perfect. – Connie Chung

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Introducing Caitlin...

Duska is a beautiful young girl who prefers to go by the name of "Caitlin", her middle name. Caitlin easily engages with other individuals; she describes herself as "socially awkward" but in fact is a curious girl who has a knack for carrying on a conversation with just about anyone. Caitlin enjoys math in school, playing basketball, soccer, and running. She also likes tossing the football around. Her current caregivers describe her as an intelligent and outgoing girl with strong communication skills and a wild imagination. Caitlin loves to sing and listens to Hip-hop, Rap and R&B. She enjoys drawing and would love very much to have the opportunity to learn more about sketching techniques. Caitlin describes herself as "boyish" and stated that she does not want "a pretty pink room full of princesses and stuff. I'm not a girly girl anymore". Caitlin needs to be the only child in the family.



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"Families don't have to match. You don't have to look like someone else to love them." – Leigh Anne Tuohy

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Introducing Antwon....

Antwon is an active and helpful young man. He loves spending his time playing football, wrestling, and any other physical activity he can participate in. While he enjoys playing outside with his brothers and friends, he also values his alone time and likes video games. Antwon states he has been enjoying school and is maintaining good grades. He is well bonded with his brothers and would benefit from a family that will help him maintain connection with them and other relatives, including his grandmother.

“Anyone who does anything to help a child in his life is a hero to me” – Fred Rogers

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Introducing Shawn...

Shawn describes himself as "smart, kind, and friendly" and says his favorite thing about himself is his "big personality." Shawn has a very engaging and entertaining personality. Recently at a routine court hearing before the hearing began, Shawn took the microphone and spoke into it. He said, "This is Judge Shawn. Welcome to Court this morning". He had the whole courtroom laughing by the time the magistrate took the bench. Shawn's facial expressions are always changing. He is very animated and fun to talk to. He also dances and is quite fun and energetic. His favorite hobbies include watching movies and YouTube, listening to music, and playing video games. He also loves Teenaged Mutant Ninja Turtles and Spiderman. Halloween is his favorite holiday, as he enjoys dressing up. Shawn is very industrious and recently has begun running a successful lemonade stand in his neighborhood. The ideal family for Shawn would be strong and patient and provide him with the love and attention he needs.



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"Adoption was a bumpy ride - very bumpy. But, God, was it worth the fight." – Mariska Hargitay

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Introducing Alex, Carlos, Jasmine....

Alex is a high school student and is a member of the ESE class. Alex is in specialized classes that award him the opportunity to remain in high school until he is 21 years old. Alex enjoys playing football, working out and playing video games. Alex has an interest in cooking and has expressed a desire to go to culinary school. Alex is driven and wants to have a job. He believes that by having a job, he will be able to provide for himself and buy things he enjoys. Alex is respectful and is known for his good behavior.

Carlos recently started high school and he is excited to meet new friends. He enjoys playing basketball, spending all day outside, and playing video games. Carlos has an interest in sports and has expressed a desire to play on the basketball team and to be on track team for his high school.

Carlos is driven and wants to be the best at whatever he puts his mind to. Carlos is shy when you first meet him, but after a few minutes he is bubbly and full of personality. Carlos is driven and wants to be the best at whatever he puts his mind to.

Jasmine enjoys going to school, spending time with friends and listening to music. She wants to be an OBGYN when she is older. Jasmine has an older and younger brother and would like a family who will help her continue her relationship with them post adoption.

***“They [my adopted children are] as much my blood as I am theirs.”
– Brad Pitt***

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If you would like more information on Alex Carlos, & Jasmine, please email us at heartgallerybigbend@gmail.com and/or call Florida's Adoption Information Center at 1-800-96-ADOPT



Introducing Jamal....

Jamal is a sweet boy who enjoys watching cartoons on Nickelodeon and Disney Channel, listening to music, singing in the church choir, eating pizza, playing outside, and jumping on the trampoline.



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"You don't have to give birth to someone to have a family. We're all family...an extended family." – Sandra Bullock

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Introducing Candra....

“If there’s a cause worth fighting for, it’s this: children belong in families.” – Nicole Skellenger

Candra is a young lady with a big personality. She is very personable, and it is easy to strike up a conversation with her. She is very interested in music and being with friends. She loves being active and really enjoys gymnastics. Candra has a younger sister and brother being adopted separately. It is very important to her that she can maintain contact with her siblings, especially her little brother.

Candra loves getting her hair done, is very into wigs and cosplay. She loves Anime. She always keeps a journal on her so she can doodle and draw. She loves being creative and crafting. She also really likes dressing cute and is very into being social with her friends and family. She has a sense of style and likes to be able to express herself with her clothes, accessories, and hair style. She has a lot of varied interests and thrives on praise and positive reinforcement. She has a big imagination and loves to learn new things and be a part of everything. She is sassy and fun to be around. She loves to talk! She can talk about all kinds of things, and it is easy for her to share her interests with people she trusts. Candra still has contact with her biological mother and right now, she wishes to continue that phone contact. It is easier for Candra to build a trusting relationship with a female, so she is looking for a family that includes at least one mom.

Candra needs an emotionally stable, patient family who can keep her engaged in activities that focus on self-esteem, team and peer relationships, and who will be able to support her in her healing journey. She is very smart and does well in school, but, like most kids her age, does need help staying motivated to get her work done. Candra is looking for a family where she can soak up all the attention and not compete with other children near her age or younger. The most important thing to Candra is having a relationship with her brother. She will need to be able to have frequent phone contact and visits with him. She is looking for a family who understands how important sibling relationships are and will help her stay in her brother's life as much as possible.



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Introducing Louis....

Louis smiles easily and is very intelligent; he attends accelerated classes in school. Louis thinks he would do well in a family where there are other children, as he would like to have siblings. Louis is very close to his grandmother, and he would like a family who is willing to allow him to maintain contact with her and other members of his family. Louis loves to play sports, especially basketball, and would like a family that also enjoys playing sports and other outdoor activities. Like most kids his age, Louis also enjoys playing video games, and is very proud of a handheld game that he worked for and bought himself. Louis needs a family that is willing to be open minded and patient while building much needed trust between him and the family. He will do well in a family who is calm, structured, and focused on positive parenting techniques and behavior plans to help him see and set his goals and assist him in achieving them.



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*“And now it makes every day like Christmas. I can't wait to see him [my adopted son] in the morning. I can't wait for him to wake up.” –
Kirstie Alley*

The Heart Gallery Big Bend is a group of volunteers dedicated to promoting adoption and bringing attention to children like Louis who are available and still waiting for their forever family.



Introducing Joseph....

Joseph is a kind and easygoing teenaged He is easy to talk too, and he smiles a lot when he talks. He describes himself as being an athletic and energetic boy who loves to play football and has a "good arm." He loves sports, but football is his favorite. He likes being the quarterback and is proud of his throwing arm. Joseph loves working with his hands and remembers helping his grandfather build go-karts when he was little. He loves creating and building things mechanical in nature and wants a family that can encourage and help him improve those skills. He listens to rap music and does really enjoy writing his own lyrics. One thing he wants adoptive parents to know about him is that "I have a lot of energy!" He loves to keep his body moving and active. He would love to go to college one day and study to become a mechanical engineer. He would also like to travel and aspires to go to Hawaii one day. He loves to ride his skateboard and wants to know how to surf! Joseph's ideal family would be active and kind, and he would like to be the only or youngest child in the family.

"There are no unwanted children, just unfound families." –

The National Adoption Center

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WWW.HEARTGALLERYBIGBEND.COM



If you would like more information on Joseph, please email us at heartgallerybigbend@gmail.com and/or call Florida's Adoption Information Center at 1-800-96-ADOPT





HEART
Gallery
BIG BEND

*Adoption - because family isn't made
from blood, it's made from love." –
Unknown*

*"Adoption is not the call to have the perfect, rosy family. It is the call to give love,
mercy, and patience." – Unknown*



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