

VALLEJO POLICE DEPARTMENT Press Release

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December 20, 2007 (2:20 PM) Lt. Reginald T. Garcia

Vallejo Police Provide Presents For Foster Children

Twenty seven employees of the Vallejo Police Department are sponsoring Christmas gifts for 40 foster children. Initially, the Vallejo Police department was going to sponsor the 18 hopeful children featured in the Solano Heart Gallery, but the response was so positive, we were able to sponsor a total of 40 children this Christmas. The Vallejo Police sponsors purchased and wrapped gifts for the children and they will be distributed this week to the children by social workers from Solano County Child Welfare Services. The coordinators of the program were Leslie Barden, a Vallejo Police Communications Operator and Violet Barton, Program Specialist for Solano County Child Welfare Services.

The Solano Heart Gallery is an extraordinary photographic art exhibit that features children in foster care who are waiting for an adoptive family and for whom Social Services has had difficulty finding a loving and stable home. Among the featured children are older children, sibling groups, children of color, and children with special needs. They all dream of having a forever family – many have had this dream for most of their lives.

The Solano Heart Gallery strives to help children find permanent homes and to inspire our community members to become adoptive or foster parents, or Court Appointed Special Advocates.

By enlisting the skills of volunteer professional photographers and writers, the unique spirit of each child shines through to capture the hearts of those who view their portraits. Heart Galleries have been used very successfully throughout California and the Nation to recruit adoptive and foster homes for children who wait. Each year Solano County Child Welfare Services investigates over 3,000 cases of suspected child abuse, with the majority of the referrals coming from Vallejo.

To view the Solano Heart Gallery, you may go to: www.solanoheartgallery.com

If you ever have considered making a difference in the life of a child, the Solano Heart Gallery offers you a unique opportunity to make a child's dream come true.

For additional information about the Solano Heart Gallery please call, the Child Welfare Services Division Licensing and Adoption Information Line at 866-522-5306.