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WE-KO-PA RESORT & CONFERENCE CENTER HOSTS ONE OF THE LARGEST CHILDREN'S HEART GALLERY PHOTO SHOOTS EVER

Led by the Department of Child Safety, this collection of photojournalistic profiles helps children currently in the foster care system across Arizona find their forever families

FORT McDOWELL, Ariz. – June 7, 2019 – Recently, the We-Ko-Pa Resort & Conference Center hosted one of the Department of Child Safety (DCS)'s largest photo shoots ever, serving as a picturesque backdrop for Children's Heart Gallery volunteers to take pictures of 47 local boys and girls seeking adoptive homes.

The interesting areas throughout, and spectacular scenery surrounding, the AAA Four Diamond award-winning property let DCS harness the power of photography to capture the unique spirits of local children waiting to be adopted. The quality, professional images will be combined with biographical descriptions to create individual photojournalistic profiles that will be featured in online exhibits, art galleries and in other forums to raise awareness about adoption through foster care and find homes for these deserving children.

"I can't thank the resort enough for their generosity in hosting one of our largest photo shoots ever," said Janine Ramirez, MSW, adoption specialist & DCS CHG coordinator. "Because of them, we were able to photograph 47 youths age 5 to 17 in hopes the photos will help them find forever families."

Photo shoot events are held several times throughout the year throughout the state, bringing together community volunteers and businesses who partner with DCS to develop the gallery of photojournalistic profiles dedicated to finding adoptive homes for children currently in the foster care system across the state – often those who face the greatest challenges in finding a forever family.

"As a firm believer in the power of adoption to create new families, this project was very dear to my heart," said David Sneider, director of group sales for the We-Ko-Pa Resort & Conference Center who adopted his 19-year-old son Sasha when he was two years old. "At the end of the day, kids just want to be loved. And because of everyone's efforts in putting this special event together, a dream came true for two parents and a 17-year-old boy who found each other and are starting their new lives together."

To learn more, visit the Children's Heart Gallery website at www.childrensheartgallery.org.

About the We-Ko-Pa Resort & Conference Center

Conveniently located 30 minutes from the airport, the We-Ko-Pa Resort & Conference Center (www.wekoparesort.com) features 246 contemporary guestrooms and suites designed with Native American traditions, bold Southwestern cuisine at the Ahnala Mesquite Room, luxurious spa treatments and salon services at the Amethyst Spa & Boutique, and a spacious heated outdoor pool with two whirlpools. The AAA Four Diamond independent golf resort's proximity to the award-winning courses at We-Ko-Pa Golf Club, gaming and entertainment at Fort McDowell Casino, and the numerous outdoor activities at Fort McDowell Adventures make it the ideal destination for a vacation, business function or special event.

About the Department of Child Safety (DCS)

The Department of Child Safety is dedicated to the vision that “Children thrive in family environments free from abuse and neglect.” As highly motivated and caring public servants, the DCS team is committed to fulfilling this mission with excellence, providing safety and well-being for the most vulnerable population in Arizona - our children. If you suspect child abuse, call 888-SOS-CHILD.

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