



## DEPARTMENT of CHILDREN and FAMILIES

*Making a Difference for Children, Families and Communities*



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Commissioner

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### **Shubert Theater Donates Tickets To Holiday Show To Children Served By the Department of Children and Families**

**HARTFORD** – Youth from the Connecticut Juvenile Training School and two other facilities operated by the Department of Children and Families will see “A Christmas Carol” later this month as a result of the Shubert Theater donating 40 tickets to this classic holiday show.

Early this month, the Shubert in New Haven was the site of the Department’s kickoff for Adoption Awareness Month. A “Heart Gallery” of photos and stories of children waiting to be adopted continues to be displayed in the lobby of the theater along with information on how families can adopt a child in foster care.

Department Commissioner Joette Katz said the decision was made to use the tickets for the youth at the training school and the two campuses of the Albert J. Solnit Center because they deserve an opportunity to enjoy a special cultural event and feel the support of the greater community.

“Experiencing a great theatrical performance is something that all our children should be able to enjoy, and this gift during the Holiday season is a wonderful way for the Shubert and the Department to make the youth feel important and valued by the adults around them,” Commissioner Katz said. “The training school in particular offers wonderful therapeutic art and music programming, so I really think the youth will find this enriching and meaningful.”

Commissioner Katz said the gift from the Shubert is an important reminder that organizations and individuals from a variety of communities can make important contributions to improve the lives of youths in challenging situations. Commissioner Katz noted that photographers who captured the portraits contained in the Heart Gallery serves as another example of the arts community making a difference in the lives of children.

“Children thrive in environments in which adults with diverse skills and backgrounds provide caring, education and cultural experiences that demonstrate that there are many great aspects to life that they too can enjoy,” Commissioner Katz said. “Allowing youth to experience the arts and the creativity of artists is a wonderful way to showcase for youth what life has to offer.”

For a decade, the Shubert Theater has collaborated with the Department in finding families for children highlighted in the Heart Gallery.

“The Shubert Theatre has been happy to partner with DCF and the Heart Gallery since 2006,” said John Fisher, Executive Director of the Shubert. “Community partnerships are essential to our mission, and we are grateful to the Department for helping us bring the arts to more members of our community”

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