

NEIGHBORS

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MB14 The Miami Herald

MIAMI BEACH

A circuit court ruling stops an order to demolish a historic house made of coral rock in South Beach, 3

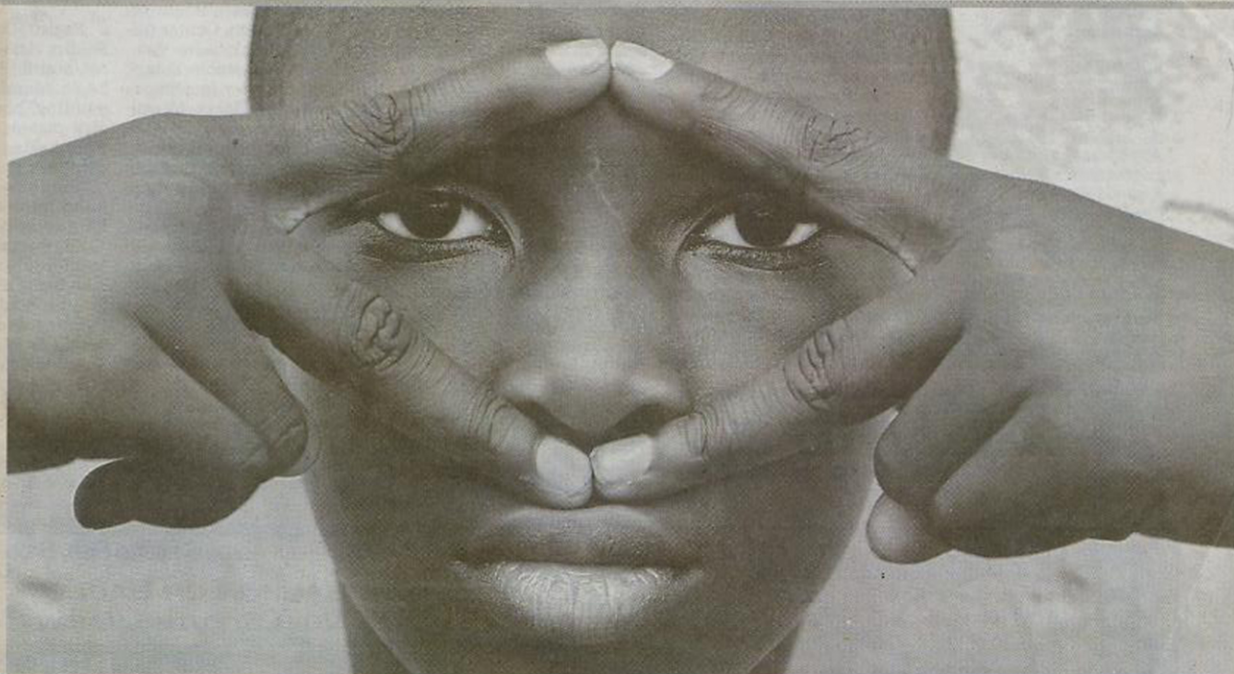
THE TICKET

See a crew of Cuban belly dancers at the Miami Beach Botanical Garden, and celebrate a new season of art, 6

CLUB CRAWLING

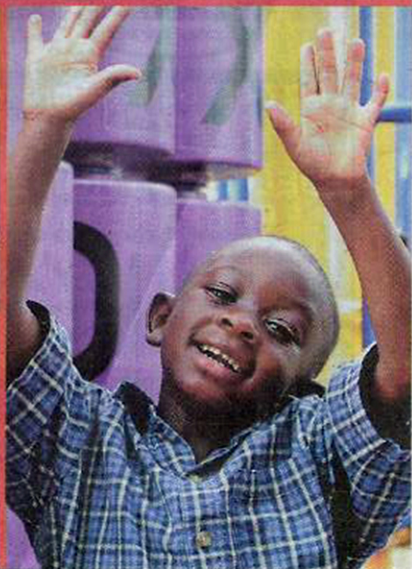
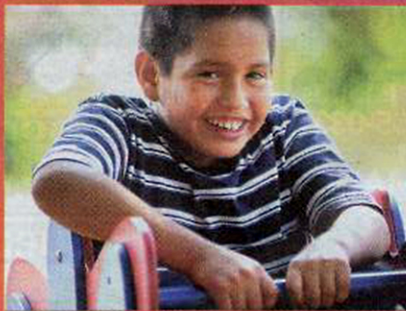
At the Press Room in Miami Beach, sports enthusiasts share the bar with lounge lizards, poker players and couples on dates, 10

CLASSIFIED AND TROPICAL LIFE INSIDE



FACES OF HOPE

A collection of portraits of 36 foster children who want to be adopted will be shown at the Miami Children's Museum starting this week. The exhibit, titled *The Waiting: Faces of Hope 2005*, is the second of its kind held at the museum. PAGE 8



HOPE FOR A HOME

A PHOTO EXHIBITION OF CHILDREN WHO WANT TO BE ADOPTED BEGAN THIS WEEK AT THE MIAMI CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

BY YAHNILET COLON
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If a picture is worth a thousand words, then it's the perfect expression for what visitors will see in the faces of the children of this year's *The Waiting: Faces of Hope 2005*.

A collection of portraits of 36 foster children 8 and older, the exhibition is meant to give a face to the large number of children across the county whose ultimate hope is to find a family and a home.

"It's a very powerful exhibition," said Sam Joseph, director of education and exhibits at the Miami Children's Museum.

The second of its kind held at the museum, the *Waiting* project was the first by Fotomission, a local nonprofit organization that focuses on using photography as a means for social change.

Along with the pictures is a brief biography of each child.

"Last year, people at the exhibit were crying," said

Fotomission founder Chendo Perez. "They see the [child's] name on the wall; see that they have dreams, aspirations."

"I tried to capture their expression and characteristics," he said, remembering how Robert, who enjoys gymnastics, did flips for his photo.

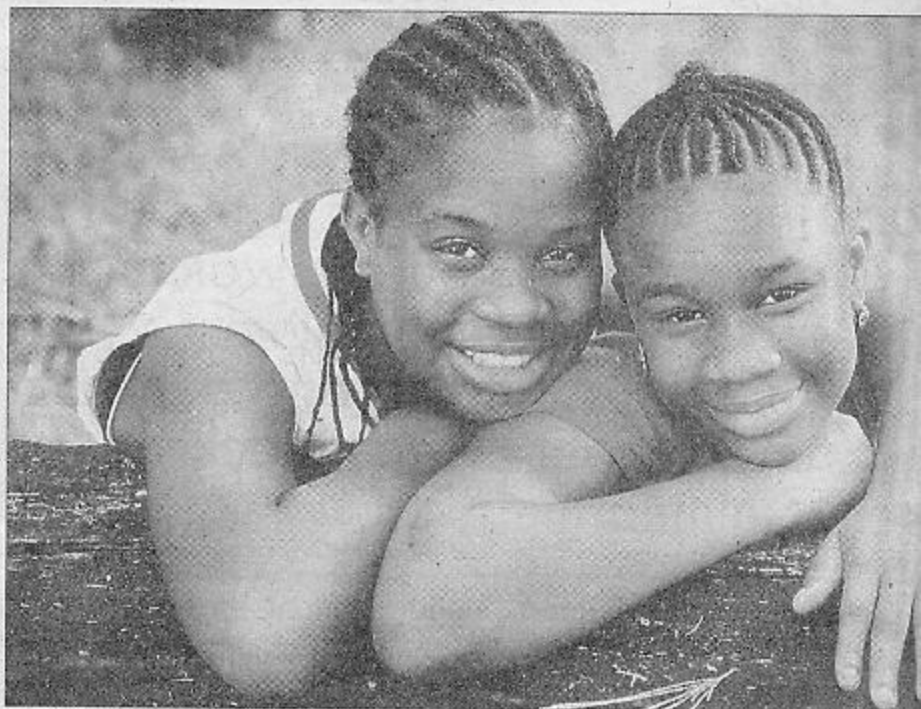
Another child, Terricka, photographed by Tracey Miller, said she wants to be Batgirl when she grows up. Others, such as Shenovia, dream of graduating from college, or like Victor, plan to simply take life as it comes.

Perez noted that many of the children smiled for the photos, despite the underlying fact that they do not have a home.

This year Fotomission teamed up with Kids Hope United and His House Children's Home, along with various sponsors, to present *The Waiting*.

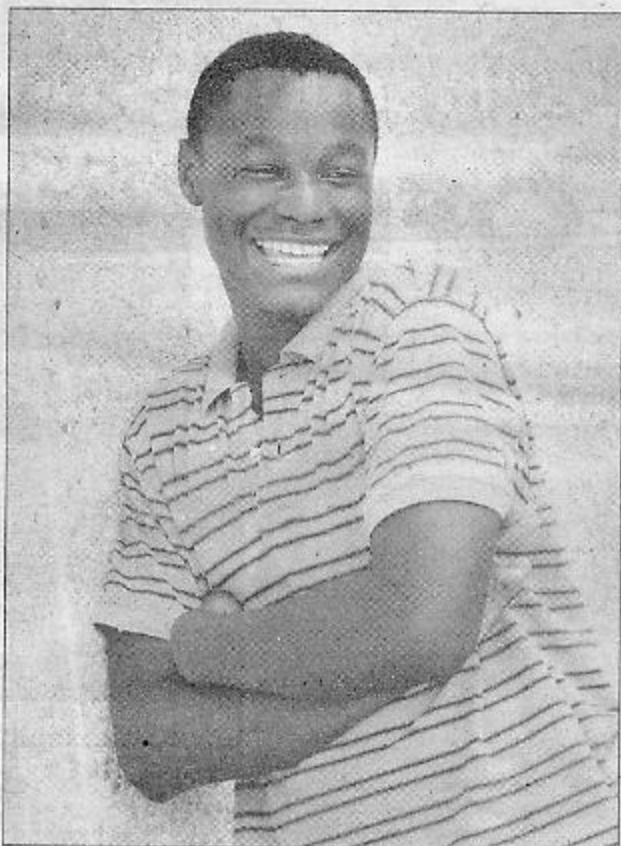
According to Fotomission curator Pavlova M.

•TURN TO HOPE, 9



VANESSA LAM-MENDI

EVELYN AND ERISHIA: *The Waiting: Faces of Hope 2005* contains 36 portraits of 8 and older, who are waiting for a home.



VANESSA LAM-MENDI

DANIEL

ON THE COVER

Pictured on the cover of the 36 foster children's portraits will be shown at the Miami Children's Museum as part of the exhibit, *The Waiting: Faces of Hope 2005*. On the left, are Shenovia, and John. Above t

VANESSA LAM-MENDIETA/SPECIAL TO THE HERALD

BERNARD: Bree Bofill, a home finder for Kids Hope United, says "these are really good kids."

GINNY DIXON/SPECIAL TO THE HERALD

MIGUEL: The *Waiting* project is the first by Fotomission, a local nonprofit organization.



KAREN ANN PATE/SPECIAL TO THE HERALD

DAVID: The exhibition is 'very powerful,' according to Sam Joseph, director of education and exhibits at the Miami Children's Museum.



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MANOLO DORESTE/SPECIAL TO THE HERALD



MANOLO DORESTE/SPECIAL TO THE HERALD

organization Fotomission focuses on using photography as a means for social change.



KAREN ANN PATE/SPECIAL TO THE HERALD

with the pictures in the
brief biography of each

MIAMI
CHILDREN'S
MUSEUM

'These
are really
good kids'

• HOPE, FROM 8

Greber, criteria for selection included that the children be considered hard-to-place (over the age of 8), that parental rights be waived and the child's permission to be photographed.

"These are really good kids," said Bree Bofill, who works with Kids Hope United as a home finder, matching children with approved adoptive families. "They really want to get adopted."

Bofill said most of the children are over the age of 11 and of African-American, Caribbean and Hispanic backgrounds.

"We are in desperate need of foster parents," she said. "There are a lot of misconceptions about foster children."

She said one common fear for foster parents is the cost of adopting a child. Costs typically include attorney fees, court costs and adoption charges from state and private agencies.

According to the Florida Department of Children and Families, Florida doesn't charge for placing children in foster homes and many of the court and attorney fees are later reimbursed. There are also other incentives such as tax credits and college tuition programs.

"I think there's going to be a lot of positive changes," said Bofill. "It's what's special about this event, [it's] not just a name; you get to see the photo and get to know who these children are."

She has a personal favorite, a picture of David, 14, whose picture is a close-up and captures what she called the unique and special aspect of his eyes. David has been in foster care for six years. His brother, his only family tie, recently left to join the military.

"[These children] want homes, a family support group," Perez said.

SMART
BOX

IF YOU GO

- **What:** *The Waiting: Faces of Hope 2005*
- **Where:** The Miami Children's Museum
- **Address:** 980 MacArthur Cswy.
- **Phone number:** 305-373-5437
- **Hours:** 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday through Saturday
- **Entrance:** \$10 adults and children; free for members and children under 12 years of age; free admission from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. this Friday.
- **Information:** Exhibition runs until Nov. 17; Exhibition reception with children and their organizations on Nov. 5 is open to the public.

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- To view more photos, click on Today's Extras