



Serving
Children,
Adolescents,
and Families
Since 1892

Today

Spring Luncheon breaks fundraising records

DePelchin's annual Spring Luncheon, held April 27 at the Hilton Americas-Houston, was the most successful in the history of the agency, generating \$522,249 in donations and attracting more than 650 guests. The event also set a fundraising record for a charity luncheon held in Houston.

The luncheon's keynote speaker was Antwone Fisher, author of New York Times' bestseller *Finding Fish: a Memoir*, and writer and producer of the blockbuster movie *Antwone Fisher*. As he does in his book and movie, Mr. Fisher shared with the audience his inspiring story of overcoming poverty, homelessness and abuse while growing up in Ohio's foster care system. He spoke from his heart about the great need for quality foster care and praised DePelchin for its outstanding work on behalf of its foster children.

During the luncheon, the Kezia DePelchin Award was presented to Nancy and Rich Kinder for their outstanding support of DePelchin Children's Center and for their advocacy on behalf of the community's children and families.

Mrs. Kinder is a DePelchin board member and has been



Honored at this year's Spring Luncheon were Rich and Nancy Kinder (left). Pictured with the Kinders are Antwone Fisher, keynote speaker, famed author and screenwriter (center); Curtis C. Mooney, PhD, DePelchin President and CEO; and Patrick Oxford, Event Chairman (far right).

involved with the agency for more than a decade. Mr. Kinder is co-founder and CEO of Kinder Morgan, Inc., one of the largest energy transportation and storage companies in America.

The couple established the Kinder Foundation in 1997 as a vehicle for supporting their favorite causes, which include initiatives on behalf of the arts, education, children and medicine. The Kinders contributed more than 3 million dollars to DePelchin's last capital campaign and were instrumental in funding the agency's program services building which bears their name.

In addition to receiving the Kezia DePelchin Award, the Kinders were honored by Mayor Bill White, who also attended the luncheon and officially proclaimed Tuesday, April 27 "Kinder Family Day" in Houston in homage of the family's generosity and community leadership.

Guests at the luncheon also heard a heart-felt testimonial from Susan Frost, an adoptive and foster parent who spoke of the valuable assistance she has received from DePelchin while adopting two children and fostering more than 20 others. Many of the children the Frosts have cared for over the years have been affected by severe abuse and neglect.

DePelchin thanks everyone who contributed to the success of this wonderful and productive event, including Mistress of Ceremonies, Melanie Lawson, news anchor for KTRK-TV, Channel 13; Honorary Chairs, Anne and Charles Duncan; and most of all, Event Chair Patrick C. Oxford, Managing Partner at Bracewell and Patterson LLP. We also thank the following donors for their generous contributions in support of the agency and those it serves:

(See "Spring Luncheon" on pg. 9 for a complete list of luncheon contributors.)

ExxonMobil Pipeline hosts party for graduating teens

On May 20, nine DePelchin teens celebrated their high school graduations in grand style, thanks to the generosity of ExxonMobil Pipeline employees. The company sponsored a party, which was held at the 43rd Restaurant overlooking beautiful downtown Houston. In addition to a lovely dinner, the graduates also received gifts, including gift certificates; luggage; and household items, such as televisions, kitchenware, bedding and linens.

Addressing the graduates and their guests, Mike Tudor, President of ExxonMobil Pipeline, gave an inspirational speech about being successful in life. He advised the graduates to work hard and pursue higher education. Mayela Quezada, with ExxonMobil Pipeline Projects, also addressed the graduates and shared her personal testimony of overcoming a difficult childhood to become an engineer.

DePelchin thanks Mr. Tudor, Ms. Quezada, Caroline Henderson, Janie Kenney, Teresa Anderson and other members of ExxonMobil Pipeline leadership for their time and effort in organizing the event. Special thanks are also extended to the employees of ExxonMobil Pipeline for donating the funds to purchase gifts for each graduate, and to the graduates' foster parents for supporting the students and helping them achieve their goals.

"We are extremely proud of our graduates, most of whom will be heading off to college or entering the work force," says Dawn Lane, Foster Care Supervisor and Coordinator of the Independent Living Program at DePelchin. "We are very grateful to the employees of ExxonMobil Pipeline for extending their generosity and for giving these young adults such a memorable experience."



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The President's Corner



Curtis C. Mooney, PhD
President and CEO

Graduation and Independence

I will never forget the feeling of looking out my dorm window and seeing my dad and brother drive away after dropping me off at college. I had just graduated from high school and was leaving home to be on my own for the first time. That was the loneliest feeling and also one of the most challenging times in my life. No one in my family had ever been to college. I was charting new territory.

At our last Board meeting, we recognized graduates in the foster care, transitional living and residential programs at DePelchin Children's Center. As I looked at these young people, I thought about what they must be experiencing. Back when I went out on my own for the first time, I left a great family who loved and encouraged me to do my best. I always knew that my family would be there for me.

With three others to care for at home, my parents could not financially support my college education. I knew, though, that they would help me in every other way possible. While we can not make up for all of the pain and stress that the young people in our programs experienced throughout their childhood and adolescence, I know in my heart that we did everything we could to help get them to this point. Their foster parents and the DePelchin staff will continue to help them, but that isn't the same as having a "forever" family who will help and support them during their journey through life. Although they have financial support for college or job training, money is only part of what is needed to be successful in life.

One of the problems with today's foster care system is that we, as providers, are forced to tell these young people that they are on their own at age 18. There are some funds available for them if they choose to seek higher education. Unfortunately, the state cannot provide anything beyond that. In many cases, the foster parents continue to help the child until he or she gains independence. There are training programs that help prepare foster children to live independently after "aging out" of the system. Realistically, though, most 18-year-olds – even those who had the advantages of a stable upbringing – still are not prepared to be totally on their own.

Those who attended this year's Spring Luncheon in April heard Antwone Fisher, our guest speaker, describe what it was like to "age out" of foster care several years ago. He described being homeless, hungry and cold. He had no one to turn to and was on the verge of getting into serious trouble when he saw a Navy recruiting sign. After joining the Navy, he got the help and discipline he needed to make it through life. Today, Antwone is a successful author, screenwriter and producer.

I wish I could say that today's foster care system offers more than it did

One of the problems with today's foster care system is that we, as providers, are forced to tell these young people that they are on their own at age 18.

for Antwone, but sadly, it does not. We still have far too many children who leave foster care with no one to turn to for support and help. At DePelchin Children's Center, we are trying to do more for our children and are working with other agencies in our city and state to address the problem. It's a big one, but it's one we

must tackle. We are all responsible for these young people, and we have an obligation to do all we can to ensure their successful transition to independent living.

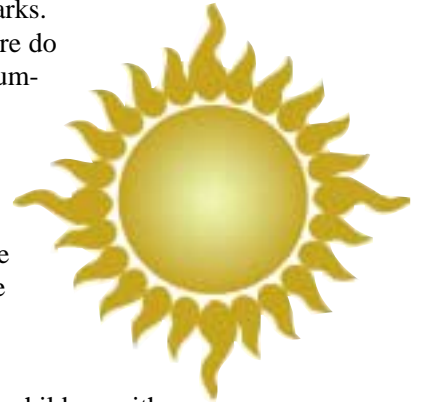
I wish each of our graduates the very best as they leave home. I wish we could give them the same type of support system that I had, but, unfortunately, we cannot. However, I do accept the challenge that we will work to change the system for their younger foster brothers and sisters.

If you would like to help, please contact your state and federal legislators and ask them to support legislative changes that the foster care system sorely needs.

Support Summer Fun for DePelchin's Children

Summer has arrived, and most Houston children are enjoying a well-deserved break from classes and homework. For many, the onset of summer brings camping trips, visits to Astroworld, sporting events, movies and outings to the local water parks. Unfortunately, many children in DePelchin's care do not have the means to participate in these fun summer activities. And some do not have caring adults in their lives to provide them.

Contributions from the community could help the agency to provide recreational activities this summer for children who need them the most, including children and teens in foster care and those residing in DePelchin's Emergency Shelter and Residential Treatment Center.



- A gift of \$50 will provide two adults and two children with tickets and popcorn to a Cinemark movie.
- A gift of \$75 will provide two adults and four children with admission to the Houston Zoo, as well as drinks and a souvenir from the gift shop.
- A gift of \$100 will provide four tickets to a Houston Astros baseball game, including peanuts and soft drinks.
- A gift of \$200 will provide admission and lunch for two adults and two children to Astroworld.
- A gift of \$250 will provide a birthday party at Celebration Station for a foster child and up to 14 guests.
- A gift of \$500 will provide a sponsorship for a soft ball or soccer team comprised of children from DePelchin's Residential Services programs.

To give to DePelchin's Summer Activities Fund, please use the enclosed giving envelope or call 713-802-7645.

In Memoriam

Henry Taub 1918 - 2004

Henry J. N. Taub, one of Houston's foremost business, civic and philanthropic leaders, passed away on April 1 at the age of 85. Mr. Taub faithfully supported DePelchin throughout his lifetime and served several terms on the agency's Board of Directors. In doing so, he continued a long tradition of service to DePelchin established by his late uncle, real estate developer and philanthropist, Ben Taub, who in 1933 served as the first male President of DePelchin's Board of Directors. Henry Taub's son, Henry J. N. (Kitch) Taub II, has also served as a board member and as director of the Foundation for DePelchin Children's Center.

Mr. Henry Taub served as a lieutenant commander in the U. S. Navy during World War II and later in the Naval reserves. He is survived by his daughter, Marcy Taub Wessel; sons, H. Ben Taub and Henry J. N. Taub, II (Kitch); and grandson, Henry Taub Wessel, all of Houston.

"It's safe to say he was a Southern gentleman foremost," Kitch Taub told the *Houston Chronicle*, "and he had a great sense of loyalty and duty whatever his obligations were: the military, his family, the community, or the indigent."

Update: Lillar enters the work force!

The Spring 2004 issue of *Today* featured an article on DePelchin Children's Center client Lillar Rhodes, a young mother who is being helped through the agency's Transitional Living Program. At the time the article was published, Lillar had completed high school and a vocational training program, but because of a lack of job experience was having difficulty finding full-time employment.



We are happy to report that an employee of Western Container Company in Houston read the article and offered Lillar a position. On May 25, she began her new job assembling Coca-Cola products at a competitive hourly rate. DePelchin congratulates Lillar on her accomplishment and thanks Western Container Company for helping her take the first step toward financial independence.

Transitional Living Program client,
Lillar Rhodes

The Access and Care Management Department

Working to provide all the answers

As Houston's largest and oldest family service agency, DePelchin Children's Center is often the first choice for those seeking assistance with issues related to children and families. The employees of DePelchin's Access and Care Management Department respond to 400 or more inquiries from the public each day.

One particular day in April, Access and Care Management staff member Imara Hyman received a plea for help from a teenager in New York who had been practicing a form of self-abusive behavior known as "cutting." By cutting themselves, individuals attempt to alter a mood state by inflicting physical harm serious enough to cause tissue damage. Unfortunately, the practice has become more prevalent



The employees of Access and Care Management are: (back row, left to right) Rosemary Garza, Dorothy Eldridge, Imara Hyman, David Beltran, (seated, left to right) Ana Torres-Thornton and Maria Nolasco. Not pictured is Verna Hamilton, the department's supervisor.

ing and contacting a counselor at an agency in New York who was willing to help the teen who had no money or insurance. The young woman is now receiving the assistance she needs, and she keeps in touch with Ms. Hyman by e-mail, providing periodic updates on her progress.

The six employees of DePelchin's Access and Care Management are often a client's first contact with the agency. They staff the agency's call center and monitor Internet inquiries Monday through Friday, from 7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and on Saturdays from 8 a.m. to noon. Assistance is also available after-hours and on weekends for emergencies. Several members of the staff are bilingual, so inquiries are answered in

English and in Spanish. Staff members are trained to respond quickly and appropriately to all types of requests. Common inquiries include those from concerned parents needing help with their child's learning or behavioral problems; or requests for information on adoption, foster care, or the many classes and support groups offered by DePelchin throughout the city.

Occasionally, individuals contact the agency while in the midst of a crisis and need immediate assistance.

"Our employees do this job effectively because they are good listeners, while remaining objective and tactful," explains Verna Hamilton, Information Systems Director. "They are dependable, patient, have excel-

lent communication skills and work well as a team."

When someone contacts DePelchin for help, a staff member from Access and Care Management assesses the inquiry by gathering pertinent information about the problem or request and then makes a determination as to which DePelchin program will best meet the person's needs. The staff member may then schedule an appointment with the appropriate department, and may discuss payment options, obtain and verify insurance information or do whatever is necessary to coordinate the caller's successful transition into a DePelchin program.

If it is clear that DePelchin does not offer the service that a caller needs, staff members provide referrals to appropriate agencies or community programs.

To reach Access and Care Management, call 713-730-2335, 888-730-2335 (toll-free) or visit www.depelchin.org.



among troubled adolescents, especially females, and has even been dubbed "the new anorexia."

Not knowing where to turn, the teen went on-line and came across DePelchin's web site. She sent an e-mail message to DePelchin describing her problem and asking for help. Ms. Hyman responded immediately by locat-



DePelchin to develop adoption curriculum

The Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (TDFPS) has awarded DePelchin Children's Center a grant of almost \$68,000 to develop an Advanced Special Needs Adoption Curriculum and provide training to adoption and foster care workers in public and private agencies.

The advanced skill level will incorporate information gained from DePelchin's participation in the National Child Traumatic Stress Network. The curriculum will offer not only improved assessment knowledge but also an advanced level of skills and techniques that practitioners can use to promote knowledge or best practice issues. Once the curriculum has been developed and approved by TDFPS, DePelchin staff will conduct two training sessions at sites to be selected.

DePelchin has been a long-time partner with TDFPS in offering training on adoption topics, having developed the TIPSS (Techniques in Placement: Skills and Strategies and Techniques in Parenting: Skills and Strategies) curriculum nearly 10 years ago. The curriculum is widely used to educate social workers, mental health professionals, foster parents and adoptive parents about the issues related to special needs adoption.

The Advanced Special Needs Adoption Curriculum is currently being developed by DePelchin and will be comprised of the following four modules:

- *The Impact of Complex Trauma on Adoption of Special Needs Children;*
- *Assessing Children and Families to Make Appropriate Placement Decisions;*
- *Preparing the Child and the Adoptive Family for Adoption; and*
- *Coordinating Placement and Supportive Services among Agencies and Staff.*

DePelchin web site serves as valuable resource for families

Need fast and accurate information on DePelchin's services? Check out our web site at www.depelchin.org.

The site features helpful information on all of DePelchin's Children's Center's programs and services, including adoption, foster care, counseling services, and more. The site also features a discussion board to allow users to connect with others on a variety of topics related to children and families.

Blue ribbons serve as reminder of children in foster care



Robert L. Hartman, Executive VP, and Chief Operating Officer, (far right) & Curtis C. Mooney, PhD, President and CEO, enjoy a moment with four foster children while observing the The National Foster Parent Association's Blue Ribbon Campaign in May.

In May, DePelchin joined The National Foster Parent Association in promoting a nationwide ribbon campaign to heighten public awareness of the need for foster parents and of the role of people who help make a difference in the lives of foster children and youth.

A tree featured in the lobby of DePelchin's Kinder Program Services Building displays 315 blue ribbons, one for every foster child in the agency's care. DePelchin hopes the tree will serve as a reminder of the dedication of foster families and workers, and prompt more people to get involved, whether as foster or adoptive parents, volunteers, mentors or in other ways.

For more on DePelchin's foster care program, call 713-730-2335 or visit www.depelchin.org.

Agency receives funding to enhance Transitional Living Program

A new collaboration between DePelchin, the State of Texas and the Texas Workforce Commission will allow the agency to enhance services provided through its Transitional Living Program. DePelchin was awarded more than \$290,000 through the Wagner-Peyser Fund, money that will be leveraged with other program funding to provide enhanced housing and job training services for young parents who are making the transition to independent living.

The program assists young homeless parents, ages 18-23, by providing housing, food and clothing, GED and job training, parenting skills training, counseling, childcare and other services that enable participants to achieve physical and financial independence within 18 months.

State budget cuts in 2003 significantly impacted DePelchin's ability to provide these needed services, but through the Wagner-Peyser Fund, the agency can not only continue the program, but can add up to 10 additional apartments, thereby accommodating more young families.

The funds are also being used to increase job training opportunities for the young mothers, including a chance to participate in "Women Helping Women," a unique program that trains young women for jobs that are traditionally held by men, including forklift operation, truck driving, telephone and cable installation, and other similar trades.

"Going to work in an office every day is not for everyone," says Julie Crowe, Manager, Prevention Services. "Some women enjoy these non-traditional jobs. And the jobs pay well, which will help them support for their families."

Kezia DePelchin Society honors founder, continues spirit of giving

Kezia DePelchin relied on her pioneering spirit and faith in humanity when she accepted into her care three orphaned children in 1892. Today, generous individuals are honoring her memory by joining the Kezia DePelchin Society and pledging an annual gift of \$1,200 or more in support of the agency. Membership is open to those who donate at this level through Dec. 31, 2004. This year, all funding raised from the Society will go to support DePelchin's Transitional Living Program. To join, please remit your gift in the enclosed envelope or call 713-802-7645 for more information. DePelchin thanks the following Kezia DePelchin Society members for their contributions this year:

Mr. & Mrs. Mark B. Abendshein	Dr. & Mrs. T. James Lawhon
Dr. Karolina Adam & Mrs. John G. Dickerson	Mr. & Mrs. William K. McGee, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. John C. Bass	Dr. & Mrs. Curtis C. Mooney
Ms. Peggy S. Boyer	Mr. & Mrs. John Nau, III
Mr. & Mrs. John Brent	Mr. & Mrs. Robert W. Paddock
Mr. & Mrs. Rick Burselson	Mr. Charles Powell
E. Lane Coco, PhD	Mr. & Mrs. Benjamin H. Powell, III
Mr. & Mrs. Robert C. Davis	Mr. & Mrs. Tom R. Powers
Mr. & Mrs. Charles W. Duncan, Jr.	Mr. & Mrs. William J. Rafferty
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Hartman	Dr. Gayle Manor Rettig
Mr. & Mrs. Russell B. Hawkins	Mr. John E. Stokes
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Mr. & Mrs. M. James Henderson	Mr. & Mrs. Charles Szalkowski
Mr. & Mrs. Ernest J. Henley	Mr. & Mrs. Ralph B. Thomas
Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Hess	Mrs. Ann G. Trammell & Dr. C. Eugene Carlton, Jr.
Dr. & Mrs. Brad Hovious	Mr. & Mrs. Harper B. Trammell
Mr. Roy M. Huffington	Mr. & Mrs. H. Richard Walton
Mr. & Mrs. Scot W. Johnson	Mr. & Mrs. John A. Williams
Mr. Jesse H. Jones, II	
Mr. & Mrs. Rich Kinder	

(List current as of May 25, 2004.)

DePelchin's Wish List

The following items are needed for children, ages 7-17, who are in DePelchin's foster care program or are temporarily residing in the agency's residential treatment center or emergency shelters:

- Hygiene items, such as soap, deodorant, toothpaste and shampoo;
- Clothing for all ages, but particularly for teens;
- Swim suits and shorts;
- Athletic and casual shoes;
- Large duffel bags;
- Baby items, such as diapers, wipes and formula; and
- School supplies for students in all grade levels

To donate items on DePelchin's Wish List, please contact Jerry Heinold at 713-802-7792 or jheinold@depelchin.org.

Above and Beyond the Call of Duty

DePelchin's Employee of the Month Award, A-B-C-D (Above and Beyond the Call of Duty), honors employees who excel in their jobs by consistently putting forth extra effort for the agency and those it serves.



February 2004 Honoree Reginald Davis

Students at the DePelchin School revere their teacher, Reginald Davis, for being an excellent role model and advisor. He consistently goes beyond his teaching responsibilities when working with students in crisis, say his co-workers, and he focuses on helping students set and achieve life-long, as well as day-to-day goals. A recent trip he organized for his students to Minute Maid Park was the highlight of their week.



April 2004 Honoree Dorothy Eldridge

As an employee of DePelchin's Access and Care Management department, Dorothy Eldridge is respected for being very organized and a hard worker. She is not only very knowledgeable about her job, but she shares her knowledge with others and when needed provides assistance without being asked. Ms. Eldridge has a wonderful reputation for doing whatever is necessary to get the job done.

March 2004 Honoree Marlys Shadle

Fund Development's Manager of Individual Giving, Marlys Shadle, is known among staff and agency supporters for being competent and knowledgeable. She is the kind of person everyone wants to have on their team, and she does her best to come up with a solution to any problem that may arise. She regularly takes on many responsibilities in addition to her regular work duties, while always remaining organized and pleasant.



May 2004 Honoree Margie Trevino

DePelchin's Front Desk Specialist, Margie Trevino greets visitors with a warm smile and a refreshing spirit of helpfulness. She is professional, respectful, supportive and resourceful, and inspires others with her work ethic and loyalty. She exemplifies DePelchin's goal of providing the best service possible to others.

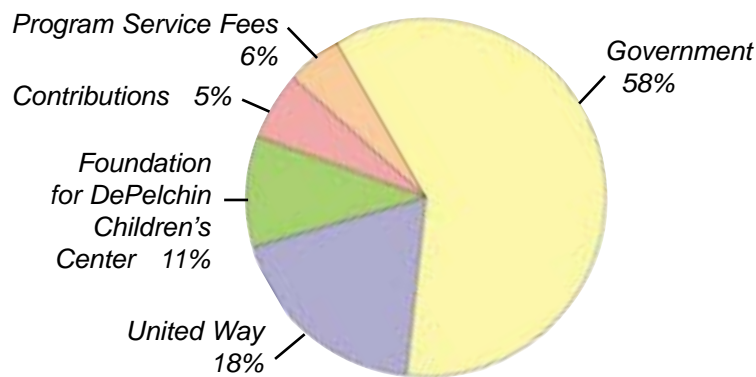


Report to the Community

COMBINED INCOME STATEMENT

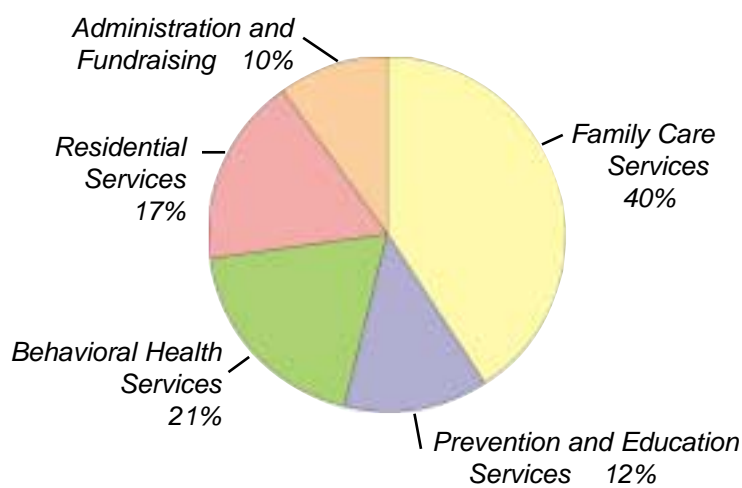
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2003

WHERE THE MONEY COMES FROM



Government	\$ 14,596,025
United Way	4,552,641
Foundation for DePelchin Children's Center	2,721,084
Program Service Fees	1,509,650
Contributions	1,187,426
Investment Gain	448,720
Total Funding	\$ 25,015,546

WHERE THE MONEY GOES



Family Care Services	\$ 9,655,754
Behavioral Health Services	4,969,043
Residential Services	4,183,654
Prevention & Education Services	2,989,696
Administration & Fundraising	2,377,936
Total Expenditures	\$ 24,176,083 *

DePelchin Children's Center receives funding from the United Way, the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, other governmental agencies, program fees, community support and investment income. DePelchin is accredited by the Council on Accreditation of Services For Families and Children (COA).

* Total funding amount does not include testamentary bequests and a gain on sale of property totaling \$2,591,372.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

Family Care Services

Adoption Services

- Counseling for birthparents considering adoption
- Recruitment and training of adoptive parents
- Focus on finding permanent homes for children of all ages and ethnicities
- Support for both designated and open adoptions

Foster Care Services

- Treatment and care for abused, neglected, developmentally delayed, medically fragile and emotionally disturbed children, ages 0 - 17
- Care provided in basic, therapeutic and habilitative foster family homes

Post Adoption Counseling Services

- Individual, family and group counseling for adopted children and adults, adoptive parents and birthparents
- Case management
- Background information and birth relative contact for DePelchin families
- Most services available regardless of the original placement agency

Behavioral Health Services

Counseling Services

- Individual, family and group therapy for children and families experiencing emotional, behavioral or adjustment difficulties
- Brief services focused on treatment goals and positive outcomes
- Psychiatric evaluations and medication management

Home and Community-based Therapy

- Intensive individualized group therapy and case management services for children and families in their home or community
- Focus on resolving parent and child conflicts while maintaining the child safely within the family

Residential Services

Elkins Residential Treatment Center

- 24-hour intensive care services for children ages 5 to 17 with severe emotional and behavioral problems

Richmond Emergency Shelter

- Temporary emergency shelter for homeless, abused, neglected or runaway children ages 5 to 17

Prevention and Education Services

At-risk Youth Services

- Services provided to students, families and teachers to assure that children function in a socially, emotionally and academically successful manner
- Focus on preventing violence, substance abuse, truancy, delinquency, gang involvement and child abuse

Prevention Services

- Services for prevention of adolescent pregnancy
- Support for pregnant and parenting adolescents to ensure healthy development of the parent and child relationship
- Services provided in several Houston-area schools
- Transitional living services

Educational Services

- Neighborhood-based parent education classes and support groups
- Services provided by professionally trained and supervised volunteers
- Educational and family support classes
- Anger management classes and classes for divorcing parents

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CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVED

Program	2000	2001	2002	2003
Family Care Services				
Adoption	1,943	1,860	1,971	1,373
Foster Care	2,086	2,447	2,701	2,742
Post Adoption	1,600	1,582	1,218	1,102
Behavioral Health Services				
Counseling Services	6,723	6,183	6,171	6,567
Home & Community-based Therapy	2,151	2,943	2,892	2,777
Residential Services				
Elkins Residential Treatment Center	102	134	144	151
Richmond Emergency Shelter	197	155	134	111
Prevention & Education Services				
At-risk Youth Services	2,103	2,082	2,997	2,918
Teen Parent Services	2,131	2,060	2,812	2,942
Educational Services	6,660	7,201	7,034	7,798
Other Program Services				
	923	650	818	—
Total	26,619	27,297	28,892	28,481

Volunteer Views

For more than a decade, children participating in DePelchin's Residential Services Program have had the opportunity to express themselves through art, thanks to long time volunteers Mary Iwanicki and Mary Carr. Each week, the talented two-some share the gift of art with children who are temporarily residing at the Isabel Elkins Residential Treatment Center.

Up to 20 children, adolescents and teens, ranging in age from 5- to 17-years-old, participate in Ms. Iwanicki's and Ms. Carr's one-hour art class on Thursday evenings. And while each child's situation and background are unique, they all share a common bond: they are receiving 24-hour care through DePelchin because they can no longer remain at home due to abuse, neglect or severe behavioral or emotional difficulties.

Ms. Iwanicki, a sales professional, has been a DePelchin volunteer for 15 years. Ms. Carr, an art director, has served for 10 years. Both say that it was their love of children that led them to pursue volunteerism at DePelchin, but it is the satisfaction of seeing the children smile that has kept them involved year after year. After teaming up to lead the weekly art sessions a decade ago, the pair became fast friends and have developed a strong rapport, both with the children and with one another.

Their goal, they say, is to provide an enjoyable and beneficial experi-



Mary Iwanicki

Mary Carr

Reaching the heart through art Volunteers use art to encourage self-expression in DePelchin's children

ence for the children. Ms. Iwanicki is a gifted seamstress who also enjoys working with pottery and ceramics, while Ms. Carr favors painting and drawing. Their individual strengths and interests allow them to work well as a team while providing the children with a wide variety of projects. They keep their sessions structured, yet flexible, and they choose projects that are simple but that encourage creativity and self-expression.

"We find that these children often have trouble expressing themselves, and they can sometimes do

it easier through art," explains Ms. Carr. "These are kids who have very little control over their situations, but when they are creating art, they are in control, and that's a great feeling."

"Each child perceives their art differently," adds Ms. Iwanicki. "If they're feeling angry, they can take out their anger on the clay. It becomes an outlet for them, and the therapeutic benefits are very evident."

In addition to sharing their time, creativity and artistic abilities with the children of DePelchin, Ms. Iwanicki and Ms. Carr have also

chosen foster care and adoption as a way of sharing their lives and their homes with children in need. Ms. Iwanicki served as a foster parent for 10 years, providing a loving and stable home for three children in state custody.

Ms. Carr and her husband, Matthew, also opened their hearts and their home to a DePelchin child. The adoption of their two-year-old son, Anthony, will be final in August.

"We knew early on in our marriage that we wanted to adopt, and we knew that DePelchin would help us find our child," says Ms. Carr. "The training, support, encouragement and constant contact they've provided throughout the process has been wonderful."

Ms. Carr and Ms. Iwanicki have taken a short sabbatical from their Thursday night art sessions to allow the Carrs some time to settle in as a family, but they plan to resume the classes this summer.

"It is extremely rare for volunteers to stay committed for so many years," says Jerry Heinold, Community Outreach Coordinator for DePelchin. "These women give of themselves without seeking anything in return. They've sacrificed so much of their time and resources over the years. They are incredible role models, not only for the kids in our care, but for all of us."

Special fun for special kids

Events and outings are wonderful ways to help brighten the days of DePelchin's children. Thanks to the following groups and individuals for providing activities for many special children. To get involved, please call 713-802-7792 or visit www.depelchin.org.

The AD Players hosted an outing to see *The Princess and the Pea* on February 3.

Athletes from The All-N-One Program of University of Houston's Athletics Department hosted talks in March and April about the importance of staying in school, setting goals and being a good citizen.

Alpha Kappa Alpha of the University of Houston provided an outing to the Museum of Fine Arts on March 14.

Alpha Phi Omega of Houston Baptist University provided an ice cream party on March 12 and a pizza party on April 16.

Alpha Phi Omega of the University of Houston hosted a kickball game with the kids on March 14.

The American Humanics Program of the University of Houston hosted an outing to the Houston Zoo on March 6.

Beta Alpha Psi of the University of Houston Clear Lake played basketball with the children on April 4.

Congregation Beth Israel provided an outing to an IMAX movie on April 18.

Delta Delta Delta of the University of Houston hosted an outing to the Museum of Natural Science on February 21.

Delta Sigma Pi of the University of Houston hosted children's games on March 27.

Duchesne Academy performed musical numbers on March 30.

Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo's Special Children's Committee donated tickets for the Rodeo and carnival in March.

Houston Young Artist's Concert provided music for the Foster Parent Association picnic on April 4.

KTRK-TV and The Children's Festival provided an opportunity for 10 DePelchin children to meet Cory Baxter, star of "That's So Raven." on April 2.

Elizabeth Muto, Miss Black USA, gave a motivational speech for the children on February 1.

The National Football League organized a visit on January 29 with Erika Dunlap, Miss America 2004, and professional athletes Jay Foreman, Donny Edwards, Kevin Johnson, Chukie Nwokorie and Jimmy Robertson.

The Order of the Eastern Star hosted fun activities on March 28.

Psi Chi of the University of Houston hosted holiday parties on February 8 and on April 4.

Rice University hosted crafts and games on February 7 and March 13.

Second Baptist Church members provide a weekly class and hosted a picnic in the park on April 3.

Shriners donated tickets for the Shrine Circus on April 29.

The Sierra Club Houston Group Inner City Outing (ICO) provided a camp outing.

Sports and Entertainment provided tickets to a celebrity basketball game on January 31.

The Star Riders held a barbecue on February 7.

Teddy's Train brought stuffed animals to the children on April 24.

Texas Black Belt Karate provided an outing to the Karate Championship on April 3.

Texas Cowboy Church provided an outing to a ranch on April 11.

University of Texas Medical School at Houston hosted "Fun Day at the Park" on March 20.

West Houston Chinese Church hosted parties in March and April.

The Young Audiences of Houston held a writing workshop on March 19.

The Young Friends of DePelchin hosted an Easter party on April 10.



Young Friends recruiting new members for 2004

The Young Friends are now recruiting new members for 2004. This group, comprised of young professionals in their 20s and 30s, helps increase awareness of DePelchin among their peers through fundraising and volunteer projects and by hosting social gatherings at fun locations throughout the community.

Members report that 2003 was an exciting year full of great accomplishments, including raising \$23,000 for DePelchin programs that were in need of funding. In years past, the group also contributed more than \$10,000 for a mural for DePelchin's new Kinder Program Services Building, and they raised and donated \$25,000 for the Capital Campaign to construct that building.

In addition to their blockbuster fundraising success, many Young Friends help DePelchin children through volunteerism, including tutoring, facilitating children's groups and staffing the donation center. The group also organizes service projects, including a Halloween carnival and other holiday activities for clients. Members have the opportunity to assist with projects and fundraising events by chairing or serving on various committees throughout the year.

Membership dues for Young Friends are \$50 for individuals or \$90 per couple. To join, please call 713-802-6271, or join on-line at www.depelchin.org.

YF Bowling Bash

The annual Young Friends Bowling Bash, held March 25 at Jillian's was a big success and raised more than \$21,000 in support of DePelchin programs. Bowlers enjoyed black light bowling and complimentary food and drinks. Prizes were awarded to the best team in costume as well as the team with the best bowling score. DePelchin thanks Criss Scruggs, Bryant Fitts, Marilyn Fontana, Courtney Lawhon and Hope Morales for organizing this successful event.

YF Easter party

The Young Friends hosted an Easter party on April 10, 2004 for the children in DePelchin's Residential Treatment program and for the young mothers and their children in the Transitional Living program. The party included egg decorating, Easter candy and an Easter egg hunt. The children also enjoyed a visit from the Easter Bunny who arrived in his bunny "art car." DePelchin thanks Johnna Edone for organizing the party and Marilyn and David Fontana for sharing their "art car" with the children of DePelchin.

Planned giving

The man who had no will

I asked him straight out, "Jim, do you have a will?" He replied without blinking, "No, and I don't need one either."

I swallowed. Here was a married man in his late 50s who was either grossly misinformed about the need for a will, or who simply didn't care. Instead of backing off, I decided to press on. Perhaps I could persuade him to change his mind. If so, I could do both him and his family a favor.

"You know," I began, "you're wrong about not needing a will. If you die without a valid will or other appropriate documents, state laws will determine the disposition of your estate. And the state's will for you may be a far cry from what you yourself might want."

"Since they must 'go by the book,' they will not be able to consider your desires. Nor will they provide anything for the charities you have supported so faithfully over the years. Probate costs will likely be greater, and a stranger may be named to represent you. Your lack of direction concerning your desires will likely cause confusion and frustration among your relatives. In short, you could leave behind a mess."

I told him about estate taxes and how they could diminish what passes through to his children after his wife's death. "By making certain provisions in your will," I explained, "these taxes could be reduced or avoided altogether."

I sensed he was having second thoughts about his no-will mindset. I pressed on: "By the way, have you considered what would happen if you and your wife should both die in a common disaster?"

He looked down. He had never allowed for that possibility. He just assumed he would die first and that his wife would then do some estate planning with the help of the kids and an attorney.

I could see the wheels turning as he imagined the various scenarios of a common death. Where would his estate go? How would his children and grandchildren benefit? What about the court-appointed administrator and the expenses of selling property and gathering records? What about all the misunderstandings and family problems that could develop? And what about those charitable organizations he supported? What about DePelchin Children's Center?

Finally, Jim spoke. "How do I go about making a will?"

Volunteer training sessions

June	14	Children's Self-esteem Training	6 - 9 p.m.
	21	Child Abuse Awareness Training	6 - 9 p.m.
July	1	New Volunteer Orientation	10 a.m. & 6 p.m.
	8	General Philosophy Training	6 - 9 p.m.
	13	Residential Treatment Volunteer Training	6 - 7 p.m.
	15	Children's Self-esteem Training	6 - 9 p.m.
August	5	New Volunteer Orientation	10 a.m. & 6 p.m.
	9	General Philosophy Training	6 - 9 p.m.
	10	Residential Treatment Volunteer Training	12 - 1 p.m.
	16	Children's Self-esteem Training	6 - 9 p.m.

Volunteer training is offered to all current and potential volunteers. The first step in becoming a volunteer is to attend a New Volunteer Orientation. This schedule is subject to change. Registration is required. To register for a session, please visit the volunteer section on DePelchin's web site at www.depelchin.org.

Helping in special ways

Quizno's promotion supports DePelchin

Now through September 1, 2004, Quizno's Subs at 5535 Memorial Drive (near Shepherd) will donate 10 percent of each purchase to DePelchin. To take advantage of this promotion, patrons must mention DePelchin when dining at Quizno's or when ordering catering services. DePelchin thanks Benny Chow and Denise Padilla of Quizno's for sponsoring the promotion. To place an order with Quizno's, call 713-457-0707.

Lowe's awards "One Grand Grant" to celebrate Grand Opening

DePelchin thanks Lowe's for awarding the agency a "One Grand Grant" in celebration of the May 26 opening of a new store in Rosenberg. The \$1,000 grant will benefit DePelchin's Richmond Emergency Shelter. Lois McCallister, manager of Residential Services, and Eva Armstrong, Coordinator of Richmond Emergency Shelter, represented the agency at the Grand Opening ceremony.

Mission Burritos raises funds for DePelchin

Wendy Mitchell, owner of Mission Burritos, initiated a fundraiser on behalf of DePelchin, which resulted in a \$654.00 gift to the agency. Ms. Mitchell donated fifty cents for each burrito sold from April 30 through May 2 at her Durham Drive and Alabama Street locations. Thanks to Mission Burritos and their patrons for their support of DePelchin Children's Center.

Community donates 1,000 Easter baskets to DePelchin children

DePelchin thanks those who donated almost 1,000 Easter baskets and helped make the Easter season brighter for children in the agency's care, including: Association of Records Managers and Administrators (400 baskets); Bellaire Bead Shop (300 baskets); AEGIS Mortgage Corporation; St. Ambrose; Wednesday Charity Club; and The Girl Scouts.

A note from the Development Office:

If you find yourself without a will, or with a will that is out-of-date, contact a reputable estate planning attorney and make an appointment today.

(Please complete and return this reply form or call us at 713-802-6292.)

Dear Friends at DePelchin Children's Center:

Please send me free literature about making a will.

Please contact me about a personal visit or other assistance.

I have already provided a bequest for DePelchin in my will.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Mail this form to:

DePelchin Children's Center, 4950 Memorial Drive, Houston, TX 77007.

Thanks for sharing

DePelchin needs the support of foundations, corporations, community organizations, and individuals to provide quality service for children and families. Our thanks to the following contributors whose gifts totaled \$100 or more between February 1 and May 7, 2003. Donors whose gifts were given in honor or in memory of a friend or loved one are listed under the name of the honoree.

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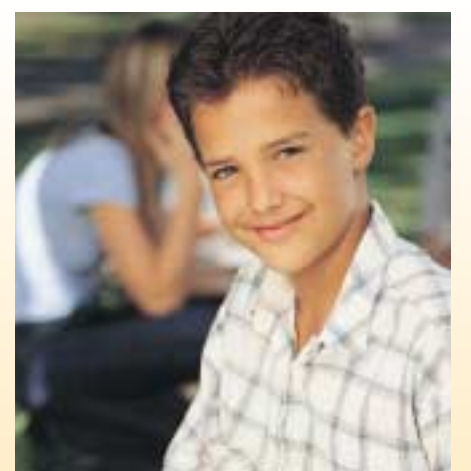
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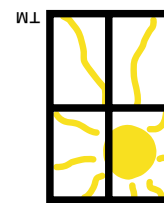
Today is published quarterly by DePelchin Children's Center. DePelchin Children's Center is a non-profit organization providing comprehensive counseling and parent-education programs to children, adolescents and families, as well as adoption, foster care and residential treatment services. The agency has served the Houston-area community since 1892. For more information about services, call 713-730-2335 or toll-free at 1-888-730-2335. DePelchin Children's Center receives funding from the United Way, the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, other governmental agencies, program fees, community support and investment income.

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Today

Number of confirmed child abuse victims rose in 2003

According to the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (TDFPS), there were 50,208 confirmed victims of child abuse and neglect in 2003 in Texas. This is a 5.9 percent increase over 2002 when there were 47,409 confirmed victims.

In April, Texas Governor Rick Perry addressed these staggering statistics and issued a proclamation that stated, "All Texans have a duty to protect children from abuse and neglect. Never should we fail in our responsibility to work toward ensuring that young Texans have a good quality of life. As such, each of us is responsible for immediately reporting suspicions of abuse or neglect to the appropriate authorities.

Throughout our communities, the cooperation of individuals and the collaboration of schools, religious and civic organizations, social service programs and law enforcement agencies all contribute immeasurably to a supportive network that works to prevent abuse and further the safety of our children."

Unrealistic expectations of parenthood, differences between what we want and what we actually have, a strained relationship with our marriage partner, too much to do and too little time, financial problems, drug abuse, alcoholism, and a history of being abused as a child are examples of problems that can cause parents to take out anger or frustration on their children. Even very loving parents can lose control to the point of child abuse.

DePelchin Children's Center has a number of programs aimed at strengthening families and preventing the abuse and neglect of children. For information, please call 713-730-2335 or visit www.depelchin.org.

Real moments in America for Children

Every . . .

- 11 seconds** a child is reported abused or neglected.
- 34 seconds** a baby is born into poverty.
- 48 seconds** a baby is born without health insurance.
- 1 minute** a baby is born to a teen mother.
- 2 minutes** a baby is born at a low birth weight (less than 5.5 lbs).
- 3 minutes** a baby is born to a mother who received late or no prenatal care.
- 5 minutes** a child is arrested for a violent crime.
- 17 minutes** a baby dies.
- 2 hours** a child is a victim of homicide.
- 4 hours** a child commits suicide.
- 24 hours** four children die from child abuse.
- 24 hours** 13,700 reports of child abuse and neglect are received.

Source: Prevent Child Abuse Texas, 12701 Research #303, Austin, TX 78759

