Dear Friend,

In a year packed with challenges, we still have so much to celebrate as we enter this holiday season. At DePelchin Children’s Center, we’re especially grateful for your partnership, in good times and bad.

From helping make sure children have the supplies they need to attend school from home or in person, to the counseling and support they need to navigate this difficult time, you have been a shining light of hope and help through your generous support.

As we begin this special season, many children will experience new holiday traditions in the safety of a loving home — and it all started with you and your willingness to give on their behalf.

Please take some time to meet a handful of the children and families you’ve impacted in this holiday issue of Brighter Tomorrow. I hope you’ll enjoy reading how families like the Bonura’s (page 8) have a fuller, happier home this holiday season thanks to your support.

With so many challenges in our community, it truly is a gift to stop and reflect on these stories of hope. Because you continue to give, children right here in our community can anticipate brighter, healthier and happier days ahead.

And until December 31, please don’t miss an amazing opportunity to DOUBLE your impact for children and families, thanks to a $200,000 matching gift challenge from Russell and Glenda Gordy!

Thank you sincerely for continuing to give as you’re able. Wishing you and yours the happiest of holidays.

Gratefully,

Jenifer Jarriel
President & CEO
As a foster care case manager, Ariel has seen the impact foster parents can have on the lives of children in their care firsthand. Through your support of DePelchin, she was able to make foster care and adoption a reality for her own family.

Working in the child welfare space, Ariel heard many positive things about DePelchin. When she and her husband decided to pursue becoming foster parents themselves, they knew where to turn for support.

“We have been fostering with DePelchin for a little over two years,” Ariel says. “They’ve become a part of our family and have been so supportive with our kids.”

Ariel and her husband have fostered 21 children through DePelchin, including Kaydonn, who they’ve now officially adopted into their family.

“When asked if we would adopt him, it was a no-brainer for me and my husband,” Ariel says. “DePelchin gave us so many resources and tools to help with that.”

Kaydonn was three years old when he came to live with the family, and four and a half years old when they adopted him. Though he initially had behavioral challenges, Ariel says DePelchin helped her family get Kaydonn the counseling and support he needed to thrive in his new home.

“He is the sweetest kid and the teachers love him,” Ariel says of Kaydonn today. “He has a lot of energy and has a four-wheeler he likes to drive all day. He is fearless.”

This holiday season, many more children like Kaydonn are thriving in the safety and care of a loving home, thanks in great part to your support through DePelchin. Thank you for your compassionate support.

We would not have made it this long if it had not been for the support and resources DePelchin has given us.
DOUBLE Your Impact this Holiday Season!

From now until the end of the year, your gift will go TWICE as far! DePelchin supporters Russell and Glenda Gordy will generously match your gifts up to $200,000 when received by December 31. We treasure your support in this especially difficult year, and don’t want you to miss this opportunity.

DePelchin Sun Society
Monthly Giving Group

DePelchin Sun Society is a great way to change lives for the better every day. Members provide monthly, critical funding to ensure we can fulfill our mission to strengthen the lives of children by enhancing their mental health and physical well-being. To find out how you can easily join the DePelchin Sun Society, please call our Office of Advancement at 713-802-7645, or visit www.depelchin.org/monthly-giving today!

Thank You for Sharing Hope This Holiday Season!
ExxonMobil Springs Into Action to Help Children

When children across our community transitioned to attending school from home at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, our friends at ExxonMobil sprang into action to help make sure DePelchin families had the support they needed.

Steve Cherek, ExxonMobil’s Corporate IT Manager, has served on DePelchin’s board for 10 years. Last spring, Steve's team at ExxonMobil donated 25 laptops to help children in foster care access online learning when the pandemic and stay-at-home orders began.

“With the pandemic and an economic crisis comes even more family stress,” he says. “There will be a tidal wave of need. Thankfully, DePelchin is front and center in responding to those situations.”

Steve and his team members at ExxonMobil in Houston also take time each year to volunteer at DePelchin. He notes how critical community support is, especially now in light of the pandemic.

“I feel it’s a responsibility,” Steve says of giving back to his community. “For anyone that’s successful, I think they need to understand they’re very fortunate to have that success... with that fortune comes a responsibility to give back.”

Thank you, Steve and the ExxonMobil Houston team for your ongoing support of DePelchin over the years. Your partnership is making a lasting impact for children and families in need.

ExxonMobil donates laptops to children for virtual learning.

ExxonMobil volunteers supporting DePelchin.
Gavin became a father at the age of 17, and now, at 24 years old, he’s putting in the work to make sure his relationship with his daughter is the very best it can be.

“I love my daughter a lot and our relationship is what I care most about,” he says.

Gavin took part in DePelchin’s 24/7 Dad workshop, which provides fathers and father figures with helpful tools and the support they need to be better parents. Gavin’s goal was to learn better ways to communicate with his daughter, Acelyn.

“It was nice to see that I wasn’t alone in taking the time to be a better parent,” he says of the workshop.

Gavin works as a material handler at FedEx but made the workshop a priority. Before the pandemic, that meant taking the bus to get there and arriving early to make sure he didn’t miss any workshop time.

“It took the opportunity to learn more about parenting and it’s changed my life for the better,” Gavin says, urging other parents to look into opportunities through DePelchin, which are now offered virtually.

Gavin shares custody with Acelyn’s mother and says his relationship with his daughter is “great and continues to get better every day.”

That’s why Gavin wants to thank donors like you for supporting DePelchin Children’s Center. “For all the donors, I want to say thank you,” Gavin says.

By partnering with DePelchin, you’re truly improving lives and strengthening families. Thanks for making a difference.
When Andi and Thomas began their journey to become foster parents, they didn't guess that they would wind up adopting five siblings...and celebrate their adoption during a pandemic with supporters from around the world.

Today, the family of 10, including the couple's three biological children, are enjoying life as one big happy family — even in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic — thanks to the support you’ve made possible for them along the way.

“It’s challenging and overwhelming, but it’s the most fulfilling joy I have ever felt,” Andi writes about her big family.

Andi and Thomas had three biological children when they decided to pursue serving as foster parents. It wasn't long before they took home a newborn baby — and found out he had four more siblings in foster care.

Though a Texas law prohibited foster families from having more than six children in a home, an amendment passed in 2017 that allowed more children in the home if siblings were being fostered.

Andi says the adoption process took two and a half years in total, culminating with a Zoom adoption ceremony during the pandemic. DePelchin was there to help the family through the entire process, from fostering to adoption, thanks to your support. Their story resonated with people across the globe and was featured in outlets like Newsweek, People and Good Morning America.

Because of your generous gifts, DePelchin can walk alongside other foster and adoptive parents and children on their journeys, making sure they have all the help they need.

“There is a great need for fostering and adoption, and there is a vast community to support people out there,” Andi writes.

We couldn’t agree more — and that community is you. Thank you for your kind support that helps bring families together and build them up.

For more information about DePelchin Children’s Center or how to get involved, visit us at www.depelicin.org