A local firefighter shows Santiago around the fire truck at DePelchin’s Family Day event.
Dear Friend,

We’re beginning to see flashes of spring where just a couple of months ago was empty and brown. Sprouts of green shooting up from the earth. Birds’ nests being tenderly and lovingly built for life to start again...

New beginnings are all around us this time of year. But none compare to the fresh start you make possible for children in need through your generous gifts: the security of a safe, loving home and an opportunity to thrive.

The generosity of this community is spectacular and you made it clear how much you believe in the value of supporting children and families at the end of 2018 when you helped exceed Russell and Glenda Gordy’s incredible $200,000 matching gift challenge. We couldn’t be more grateful!

Families like Christine’s (back cover) are also immensely thankful for you. Through the process of adopting four children and fostering even more over the years, your support has been vital to this special family. I hope you’ll enjoy reading how you’ve helped them in their journey.

For families like Christine’s and so many more, you make it possible for DePelchin to provide critical training and support all along their foster and adoption journeys — and beyond!

With your help, we know we can do even more this year. DePelchin is committed to taking the journey along with each child and family we serve...not just handing them a road map. That level of service is only possible because of you.

Thank you for helping children in need find their new beginnings. You make an incredible difference every day!

Gratefully,

Jenifer Jarriel
President & CEO

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Evelyn wanted to bring a little life back into her home after retirement, so she became a foster parent through DePelchin. But little did she know how much her world would change...

Evelyn began fostering children in 2011. She took in brothers Ronald and Kingston — then 2 and 3 — in 2012. When asked about adopting the boys two years later, she says she couldn’t say no. She realized how much she loved them and what they had come to mean to her.

Evelyn says the boys give her a whole new, joy-filled life. Even though she’s retired, her schedule is full everyday with activities for the boys — and she says it’s all worth it.

“It makes me happy to see them grow, to know where they started and to see where they are now,” she says.

Of course, there have been challenges along the way, but Evelyn is thankful for the support you provide through DePelchin. Because friends like you give, the boys receive speech therapy, occupational therapy and counseling through DePelchin.

Evelyn says even though she has already raised a biological child who is an adult, she still participates in DePelchin parenting classes. She also enjoys attending fun events like DePelchin’s Family Day with her boys.

“When you reach out to these kids, you’re giving them a bigger and wider opportunity to do as other kids can do,” Evelyn says.

Thank you for your ongoing support, which helps to give kids like Ronald and Kingston opportunities for a brighter future!
Thank You for Sharing Hope This Spring!

We Appreciate the Gordy Family!

This past holiday season, generous friends of DePelchin, Russell and Glenda Gordy, offered an incredible $200,000 matching gift challenge. Thanks to the support of our generous community of donors, we met and exceeded the matched goal to help even more children and families in 2019! Thank you to all of our donors and to Russell and Glenda Gordy for investing in the lives of vulnerable children this past holiday season!

Thank you Academy Sports + Outdoors Texas Bowl!

Thank you to Academy Sports + Outdoors and all 2018 Texas Bowl. We also congratulate this year’s bowl game winners: Baylor Bears! Since 2006, over $1.4 million in funding and promotional support has been donated to DePelchin through the annual bowl proceeds. In addition, they’ve hosted scores of DePelchin children and families at special events, providing memories to last a lifetime.

Families for Kids Luncheon
Wednesday, April 17 at River Oaks Country Club

Our annual luncheon honoring The Hamill Foundation will take place Wednesday, April 17. Our keynote speaker for the event is Ashley Rhodes-Courter, who grew up in foster care and overcame all odds to become a New York Times best-selling author at the age of 23. For questions or to make your reservation, please contact Ashley Garner at agarner@depelchin.org.

Child Abuse Prevention Month

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month and we as a community come together to recognize the role and responsibility each of us plays in standing up for children who do not have a voice. Throughout the month of April, we invite you and your family and friends to tie ribbons on our fence line at Memorial and Sandman in support of Houston-area victims of child abuse. For more information on how you or your organization can get involved, contact Ashley Garner at agarner@depelchin.org.

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 DePelchin Sun Society, please call our Office of Advancement at 713-802-6268, or visit www.depelchin.org/monthly today!
DePelchin Children’s Center is honored to have the support of Occidental Petroleum Corporation in our ongoing mission to strengthen the lives of children in foster care.

Since 2012, Occidental has supported DePelchin through the company’s Employee Workplace Giving Program, which provides a dollar–for–dollar match of employee contributions to DePelchin and other local nonprofit organizations.

The ongoing partnership has resulted in significant funding for vital DePelchin programs over the last several years.

Headquartered in Houston, Occidental is an international oil and gas exploration and production company. With a significant employee base in Houston, community partnerships and involvement through volunteering are a vital part of the company’s philanthropic priorities.

Occidental supports nonprofits in the areas where its employees live and work to strengthen communities and enrich lives.

Occidental leadership recognize that at DePelchin, children receive the support and encouragement they need to become successful, healthy adults, who will positively contribute to our community.

In addition to dollars donated, many Occidental employees give back to the community by participating in volunteer projects. Occidental volunteers have given their time to help DePelchin students, stuffing school supply packages with the items they need for a successful year.

Thank you to Occidental employees for the significant impact you continue to make in the lives of children in need across our community! We are so thankful for your partnership!
It only took a moment for Ana and her husband to agree to foster 2–month–old Santiago. But it wasn’t long before they knew they needed a bigger support system.

Santiago had acid reflux when he first moved in with the couple, and just two months later received a diagnosis of Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV).

Ana recalls the eight days the hospital held little Santiago in quarantine and numerous medical challenges he faced in the following months. That’s when the couple made the decision to have Santiago’s case transferred to DePelchin.

“Having someone to go through this process, having someone as our liason and support system through all of those questions was invaluable,” Ana says.

Thankfully, Santiago, now four years old, is thriving, healthy and very loved. Ana and her husband finalized his adoption in 2016 and are thankful to call him their son.

“Without your donations and without your support, some of these kids would have nothing,” Ana says of the children DePelchin serves. “The financial support you give DePelchin to provide for those kids — there really is no measure for that.”

A few months later, the family welcomed another foster child, this time a baby girl named Isabella who they also adopted. They are so thankful to you for the support you helped provide during foster care, adoption and post-adoption processes.

Thank you for your compassion for our community’s children. Your contributions are improving lives and strengthening families.
When her nursing position abruptly ended after 17 years, Christine and her husband David saw an opportunity rather than a roadblock.

“The next thing I knew, we were contacting DePelchin to see if there was a need for foster parents willing to care for children, specifically infants ages 0-2, with medical needs,” Christine recalls. By the time the couple made that call, they already had three adopted sons: Andrew, Jeremy and Christian – two of whom had been placed through DePelchin. In their new role, Christine says she and David only intended to serve as “meantime parents” for those in the foster care system.

“But sometimes God has other plans,” Christine says.

Eight–month–old Kade, the family’s very first foster placement, had a number of medical issues as a result of being born three months early. Two years later, Christine and David officially adopted Kade. He’s now four years old, and Christine happily reports he attends pre–K and has just learned to walk — despite his medical challenges.

Since Kade first arrived, Christine and David have lovingly served as foster parents to seven more babies. Another family adopted one baby; five returned to their homes and one is still with Christine and David.

Christine credits generous donors like you for making all of this possible.

“Because of you, we’ve been blessed many times over.

DePelchin Children’s Center has helped our children and countless others find stable homes with families who love and nurture them,” Christine says.

Thank you for giving families like Christine and David’s the support they need to care for so many children.

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