Stories of hope YOU bring to children & families
Dear Friend,

Have you ever longed for the summer of your youth? The long days spent swimming in a pool, lounging on a hot day or just playing with kids in the neighborhood...

Even though a lot has changed for our community’s children in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, most are still experiencing the fun and freedom that come with summer.

But for kids who are in abusive or neglectful homes, there’s little joy to be had in the summer.

Without the safety of a loving family and home, children have much more to worry about than enjoy.

But this summer, your generosity is making it possible for more children to make lasting, joyful memories in the safety and care of loving foster and adoptive families.

Isiah and Elijah [page 8] are biological siblings who were adopted this year. Their family is just one of the many who are thanking you for giving them the tools they need to best care for their children. You are making such a difference.

And in this edition of Brighter Tomorrow, I’m also thrilled for you to read about other neighbors your gifts are supporting, like Logan [page 3] and his unique story about how you helped him reunite with his biological mother.

You make so many amazing stories possible, which is why I’m honored every day to partner with you. Thank you.

With gratitude,

Jenifer Jarriel
President & CEO

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Jarel recalls mostly raising himself into adulthood — something he doesn’t want for his own children. That’s why he’s thanking you for helping him let go of old parenting habits and embrace a better path for his family.

“I care about their desires and their goals,” Jarel says of his five children. “I’m there to support them through everything.”

In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, Jarel lost his job in enterprise software sales. Discouraged, he was looking for ways to better himself and sought out a friend who told him about DePelchin’s Fatherhood Program.

“I went into the program blind,” he says, but he quickly learned that the program took “deep dives into critical things in fatherhood that you wouldn’t find just living life.”

Jarel says the 12-week program gave him a safe space to share and reflect while learning from fellow fathers in the group, including the instructors.

Jarel is active in his kids’ lives and focuses on building trust as they grow older and keeping his whole family unit in place.

Jarel wants to thank caring donors like you for making this program possible and giving him and many other fathers in our community the tools they need to be the best dads they can be.

“There is nothing like people who care,” he says of friends like you.

Thank you for the care you offer children, mothers, fathers and families across our community. You’re making our community even brighter this summer.
**The Hamill Foundation**

If you’ve gone down Memorial Drive lately you may have seen that DePelchin’s Memorial campus has new signage. Thank you to The Hamill Foundation for funding this bright addition to our building. The new sign serves as a reminder to the community that DePelchin is here to create brighter tomorrows for children and families in Texas.

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**Back to School Drive**

DePelchin Children’s Center has a goal to provide all our families with backpacks full of school supplies so children can start the new school year off right. To learn how you can donate in person or through our Amazon Wish List, please visit depelchin.org/schoolsupplies.

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**Texas Bowl**

A huge thank you to our amazing partner Texas Bowl for their record-breaking donation of $215,000! This gift will strengthen the lives of so many DePelchin children and families. We are so proud to have been Texas Bowl’s official charitable beneficiary for 15 years! With this generous gift, Texas Bowl has donated more than $2 million in support of DePelchin’s mission and programs and provided our children and families with priceless memories that will last a lifetime.

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**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 Ashley Garner, Director of Donor Relations, at 713-802-7645, or visit depelchin.org/monthly-giving today!

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**1892 Society — Leave a Legacy**

Planning for your future has never been easier! You can make smart choices for your own future AND help children in need for years to come. Learn more about joining the 1892 Society with DePelchin Children’s Center at depelchin.org/leave-a-legacy. Please feel free to contact our Senior Vice President of Advancement, Lisa Garces, by calling 713-802-6292. She’d be happy to speak with you at your convenience.

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**Thank You for Sharing Hope This Summer!**

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Every month, Fox 26 Anchor Sally MacDonald happily joins a child in one of their favorite activities: a trip to the zoo, an arcade or even the nail salon — all while helping introduce our community to a child in need of a loving home.

“Despite the tremendous pain and trauma that they’ve gone through, the children that I’ve met have always found the positive in every moment,” Sally says.

Sally has been conducting monthly televised interviews with children in foster care through DePelchin since 2012 when she began anchoring at Fox 26.

“Our stories are out there to inspire awareness,” Sally says.

And that’s exactly what they’ve done. Through the series of stories, countless individuals and families have been inspired to start their foster care and adoption journeys.

“Our stories are out there to inspire awareness.”

The stories also serve to dispel common myths about foster care and adoption, such as expense, length of time for the process or even marriage requirements.

“Our stories draw a really big reaction,” Sally says. “People will reach out who have already been licensed [and] sometimes people will reach out who have not started but want to help.”

She urges anyone who is interested to get involved, whether through foster care or adoption, or even volunteering.

“People don’t know the amount of trauma and pain these kids have experienced,” she says. “[But they are] able to overcome with the right support system.”

Thank you, Sally, for sharing children’s stories and giving more kids the safety of a loving home through the awareness you provide!
Logan was 50 years old when he decided it was time to seek out his biological mother, and your support helped make sure he could find her.

Logan was born in Houston in 1966 and was placed for adoption through DePelchin. He says he was happily raised by his adoptive mother, a teacher, and father, an engineer. But watching his wife with her two children stirred something in him.

“I had amazing experiences [growing up] with many opportunities available to me,” Logan says. “I thought it would be important for her to know that so she could rest easy knowing she made the right decision.”

With his adoptive parents’ full support, Logan contacted DePelchin and shared his information with them. Within two weeks he learned that his biological mother had always left a forwarding address with DePelchin throughout the years.

“I wasn’t very optimistic about ever finding her because it’s been 50 years,” Logan says. “But the fact that she was leaving these addresses made it a lot easier, and DePelchin just helped so much throughout this whole process.”

Today, Logan enjoys a happy relationship with his adopted family, and now with his biological mom as well. And he’s still grateful all these years later for being placed with his adoptive family.

“It’s only through your generosity that stories like Logan’s are possible. Thank you for bringing families together!
Amy and Ryan are thanking you for the support that got them there.

“[DePelchin does] a lot of training... it’s about parenting children who are coming from hard places,” Amy says.

Both of the boys came directly from the hospital to Amy and Ryan’s home.

“We only envisioned fostering and adopting one at a time,” Amy says. “When [Isiah] was 9 months, we found out he had a sibling on the way and then we decided to take his brother too.”

Today the boys are thriving with their sisters and family, and Amy and Ryan continue to develop hopes and dreams for all of their children.

“We want them to have a chance to follow their dreams and... be the very best versions of themselves.”

Thank you for walking alongside countless foster and adoptive families this summer so that more children can have safe, loving homes and everything they need to thrive.

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