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

One year ago, we had no idea what was about to hit our community and our world. The COVID-19 pandemic seemingly came out of nowhere and changed things in ways massive and small.

Today, we still have many unknowns in the midst of the pandemic, but there is one thing that I am more confident in than ever before: you.

Friends like you stepped up in countless ways over the last year. When our children began attending school from home, you made sure they had the technology they needed to keep up with their classmates.

When critical training and programs could no longer take place in person, you made virtual options possible.

When children and families faced uncertainties all around them, you made sure they had comfort and stability through DePelchin programs and services.

Because of your generosity, children and families like the ones you’ll read about in this spring edition of Brighter Tomorrow can look hopefully toward the future with the safety and care they need to thrive.

Thank you for making all of this and so much more possible in one of the most challenging years of our modern memory. You eased the burden for countless children and families through your generosity — I couldn’t be more proud to serve alongside you.

With gratitude,

Jenifer Jarriel
President & CEO

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Foster and adoptive parents Caleb and Delaney say they felt “lost at sea” in the foster and adoption process until friends like you came alongside them through your support of DePelchin.

The couple was trained to be foster parents and began the process directly through Texas’ Child Protective Services. But they longed for a greater support system through the process.

“We started searching for an agency that could train us in therapeutic parenting and how to handle challenging behaviors,” Delaney says.

Fortunately, they found that and more after connecting with DePelchin.

“DePelchin has trained us, cared about us, been in the trenches with us, walked through dark seasons with us, and rejoiced with us when we finally were able to adopt our eldest son last September,” she says.

Their oldest son, Caspian, turned 14 last July, and was officially adopted into the family the following September.

“Cas has grown to trust people better and appreciate stability in his new home and family,” Delaney says. “It’s been hard work getting here, but we’re making a lot of progress.”

Today, Caspian especially enjoys video games, football, basketball, roller skating, amusement parks and spending time with his siblings and extended family.

“He’s had many highs and lows but is really good at taking his time to feel and process what is going on,” Delaney says. Thanks to your faithful partnership, the family also has the tools they need to best support Caspian and his siblings in their adoption journeys.

“We couldn’t do this without y’all,” Delaney says to donors like you.
**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 2021! 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 Mercari Texas Bowl!**

In 2020, our friends at the Mercari Texas Bowl found new ways to support DePelchin and provide opportunities to our children and families. We appreciate their continued support of our mission through the Gridiron Legends Golf Tournament and Texas Bowl Volunteer Day. Since 2006, more than $1.8 million in funding and promotional support has been donated to DePelchin through the annual bowl proceeds.

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**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 to bring awareness to victims of child abuse by tying a blue ribbon around a tree. Please take a photo, share on social media, and remember to tag DePelchin! Also, make sure to visit our website to learn about our parenting self-care seminars and other opportunities open to the community during the month of April.

**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 Spring!**
The COVID-19 pandemic brought many activities to a standstill throughout our communities, but The Junior League of Houston made sure volunteerism wasn’t one of them.

“We have had to reimagine every aspect [of volunteerism],” says Rachel Regan, president of The Junior League of Houston, Inc.

The Junior League of Houston is a 95-year-old organization that has a long history of supporting DePelchin and other Houston agencies. When the pandemic began, volunteers shifted their approach to make sure they could still serve, but safely.

One way they’ve continued to help is through the Junior League Community “SUPER” Market, created to provide DePelchin children and families with basic needs, including coats, food and more.

“We providing hope and light and happiness when we cannot physically be together and working with League volunteers to create innovative ways to serve our community has been the gift of this difficult year,” Rachel says.

The group has also remained active in supporting DePelchin’s Back to School and Holiday Project initiatives, as well as providing Halloween bags for children at DePelchin’s Residential Treatment Center.

“We are figuring out new and inventive ways to make an impact,” Rachel says, noting she “could not be more proud of the service we do.”

At DePelchin, we are also incredibly grateful for the innovative ways volunteers have stepped up to make sure our children and families have the ongoing support they need — even in the wake of the pandemic. Thank you, Junior League of Houston for your steadfast dedication!
When Texas mom, Monica, lost her job during the COVID-19 pandemic, friends like you made sure both her and her 9-year-old daughter had the support they needed to navigate an especially challenging time.

Monica took part in DePelchin’s ParentingHelp program, a free, 9-session course that covers topics ranging from stress management to problem solving and child development.

One major stressor came while Monica was in the middle of the program. Because of her job loss, Monica couldn’t afford to purchase a computer for her daughter, Chloe, to use to attend school virtually during the pandemic.

Chloe was put on a waiting list through her school for a computer she could use at home. She eventually received a refurbished laptop but discovered that the computer didn’t always work with the educational software her school used.

“Since these computers are loaners, they don’t work properly or they load very slow,” Chloe shared with ABC13 in Houston.

Thanks to the generosity of friends like you, DePelchin partnered with ABC13 to provide Chloe and 80 other children in need with new Chromebook computers to use for school.

That means a lot less worry for moms like Monica, and that kids like Chloe can get back to the subjects they love most in school — which, for Chloe, are math, science and writing.

Thank you for giving parents the tools they need to provide better care for their children and for helping children thrive through so many of life’s challenges. You’re building stronger families across our community.
Parents Bobby and Rochelle spent the 2020 National Adoption Day in one of the most special ways possible: welcoming Rose, 2, as an official part of their family. And there to celebrate with them was Rose’s biological mother, Ysabel.

“We want to make sure that she has a connection with her,” says Rochelle of their choice to embrace Rose’s biological mother as a part of their extended family.

“Rose was placed into foster care with Rochelle and Bobby when she was 13 months old. She was small for her age, had numerous health issues and wasn’t yet walking when she first arrived. Since then, the family has witnessed an amazing transformation with Rose now thriving.

“She runs this house,” Rochelle says, smiling.

And since the couple welcomed Rose into their home and family, they also welcomed Ysabel as an extended part of their household. They continue to practice healthy boundaries with Ysabel while also encouraging and helping her work on the tools she needs in life.

Even during the COVID-19 pandemic, the family made a way to stay connected with Ysabel.

“We still talk on the phone and message through Facebook so that [Ysabel] can see [Rose],” Rochelle says.

Rochelle says it’s all been possible through the support of friends like you through DePelchin.

“It’s great to have someone there and a shoulder to lean on,” Rochelle says of DePelchin.

Your gifts truly help provide safety and care for children in need and help bring families together across our community. Thank you for your generosity.

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