



DePelchin
CHILDREN'S CENTER

Spring 2022
Newsletter



Brighter

Tomorrow



Stories of hope YOU bring to children & families



Jenifer Jarriel
President & CEO

Dear Friend,

I'm filled with pride when I think of all the things your compassion and generosity have accomplished in the lives of DePelchin children and families we serve across Texas. Your partnership gives me great hope as we look ahead to the rest of 2022.

Because you care, we are able to meet the needs of children and families by providing comprehensive services focused on ensuring all children are part of safe, caring homes.

Programs like ParentingHelp continue to grow and evolve to help caregivers learn how to parent positively in real-world, everyday situations.

With your partnership, we can offer this program for free to make sure more parents are equipped and prepared to be the best parents possible.

On page 7 of this spring edition of *Brighter Tomorrow*, you will meet one family who recently benefited from this program and read about the difference it continues to make for them.

This is just one of the many services you help provide through your dedicated partnership, making new beginnings possible for children and the families who care for them.

If there's anything the last two years have proven, it's that we don't know what the days ahead hold for us, but I am certain that together we can ensure a brighter tomorrow for vulnerable children across Texas.

Thank you for your ongoing partnership.

Gratefully,

Jenifer Jarriel
President & CEO

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You Make New Beginnings Possible

“I felt like I had no home and nothing was going to go right, but then, out of the blue, it felt like I had a chance.”

For 17-year-old Marcella, that chance came in early 2020 at an art event in Lubbock. Crystal was volunteering at the event when she met Marcella, who was in foster care at the time, and felt like she was destined to be a part of her family.

“She is just phenomenal!” Crystal says of Marcella.

Crystal and her husband, Kris, already had three children at home that they adopted through DePelchin, and space was limited. Thanks to some big-hearted neighbors and your support, they were able to transform their space to make room for Crystal and begin the

adoption process — all within 24 hours.

“People just jumped in and helped; it was like God knew she was supposed to be our kid,” Crystal says. “We transformed our dining room into a bedroom, and we had family come and help us build [the space].”

After months of paperwork and relicensing through [DePelchin](#), Marcella came home in October 2020 and was officially adopted on July 11 last year. Now, the 17-year-old AP student and artist hopes to encourage families considering adoption.

“If you can [adopt], you absolutely should because you have no idea what kind of impact you could have on a kid’s life,” Marcella said.

She adds, “You could change their whole life for the better if you choose to do this.”

Thank you for giving children of all ages the chance to thrive with safe, loving families to call their own.

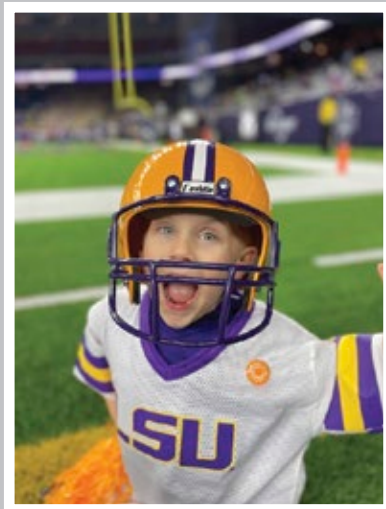


Marcella

Thank You for *Sharing Hope* This Spring!

Thank you TaxAct Texas Bowl!

Thank you to the TaxACT Texas Bowl and all of the supporters of this year's event. Since 2006, more than \$2 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 — like this year's Field Day with collegiate athletes — providing memories to last a lifetime.





David Fletcher, June Deadrick, Ellen and John Bass at the 2019 Families for Kids Luncheon

Families for Kids Luncheon

Wednesday, April 20 at River Oaks Country Club

DePelchin's annual luncheon honoring The Gordy Family will take place Wednesday, April 20. Our keynote speaker for the event is former at-risk foster kid turned youth advocate, Josh Shipp. Josh's success as a preeminent author, speaker, and global youth empowerment expert is living proof of the power of one caring adult. For more information or to make your reservation, please visit www.depelchin.org/luncheon.

Child Abuse Prevention Month

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month — an opportunity to recognize the importance of families and communities working together to strengthen families to prevent child abuse and neglect. In 2021, there were 68,517 victims of abuse and neglect in Texas. Visit our website to learn how to take action to support children in April. There's no better time to bring awareness to this issue and join DePelchin in our work to keep children safe and healthy.

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 2022! Thank you to all our donors and to Russell and Glenda Gordy for investing in the lives of vulnerable children this past holiday season!



Ticket to Dream Brings Joy to Children

“No child should be unable to access online learning because they don’t have a laptop and no child should have shoes that don’t feel great in.”

These are just a couple of the many issues that Ticket to Dream helps address through their partnership with DePelchin Children’s Center.

Gina Davis is president and executive director of Ticket to Dream and says they have maintained a partnership with DePelchin since 2016, providing monetary donations and some of DePelchin’s most needed in-kind items, such as school supplies, socks, underwear and holiday gifts.

To help kids through all the ups and downs of COVID we’ve had to get creative and think outside the box.

Gina says Ticket to Dream, which has more than 200 charity partners nationwide, has changed significantly over the past two years in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and shifting needs.

“We are a small team, but we were able to pivot pretty hard thanks

to our partners like DePelchin telling us where that need is,” she says.

The joy of our work comes from the joy on the faces of the children who receive the items and support, Gina says.

“Our goal is to provide everyday essentials and support to as many

foster youth as possible,” she says. “We know how important the little things and little extras are to a child’s self-confidence, self-worth and experience in care.”

Thanks to donors like you and our partnership with Ticket to Dream, more foster children have the resources they need to thrive this spring. Thank you!





You Empower Caregivers

Fernando and Maria thought they were done raising children, but when their five grandchildren needed them, the grandparents had somewhere to turn for help.

The legal guardians of the couple's five grandchildren could no longer care for them, so Fernando and his wife decided to officially adopt the children. But the road wasn't easy at first.

Fernando and Maria experienced a lot of stress early on as they tried to help their grandchildren cope with the trauma they had experienced. That's when the couple turned to DePelchin's

ParentingHelp Program, a free, 9-session course that covers topics ranging from stress management to problem solving and child development.

“You have someone who really listens to you and gives you advice on how to do things better.”

Fernando and Maria say they started the course because they wanted to do everything in their power to create a supportive environment for their grandchildren.

“The best thing about the program is that you have someone who really listens to you and gives you advice on how to do things better,” Fernando says, noting they now feel empowered to begin a new parenting journey with their grandchildren.

The family has also been able to participate in community events through DePelchin, all the while receiving wrap-around support through the ParentingHelp Program. Fernando recalled going to Morgan's Wonderland as a family.

“The kids had so much fun, and it was great to distract ourselves away from home since we're there a lot because of the pandemic,” he says.

Thank you for empowering caregivers to be the best they can be through your support of DePelchin. Your support builds happier, healthier families.

Kristyn Shares Thanks for You

The Cummings Family



Maddie was just three years old when she moved into what she affectionately called ‘the castle,’ and thanks to your support, she and her siblings are now receiving love and care that are fit for royalty with their forever family.

Maddie and her siblings, Bexleigh and Braxton, came to live with Kristyn and Chris as the couple’s first foster care placements.

“I remember the first night after putting them to bed, thinking ‘oh my gosh there are three kids that live here now,’” Kristyn recalls.

And thanks to your generosity, the family wasn’t alone as they adjusted to their new life and suddenly bigger family.

“It’s been a huge blessing to have the support that DePelchin offers,” Kristyn says.

“ *Thank you. We felt so supported and cared for by DePelchin.* ”

In fact, since welcoming Maddie, Bexleigh and Braxton into their home, the family has also welcomed a fourth child, Liam. They celebrated all four children’s adoptions last November.

This year, Maddie is in first grade where she recently won an award for practicing kindness. Bexleigh is in pre-k and loves taking care of people. Liam is the life of the

party and Braxton is growing and thriving.

Kristyn says that through DePelchin, the family has received vital care and support throughout their foster care and adoption journey as well as access to activities and resources for the whole family.

“I’m really thankful for the people who support DePelchin so they can provide that care,” she says of friends like you.

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