



DePelchin
CHILDREN'S CENTER

Holiday 2023
Newsletter



Brighter Tomorrow



Stories of hope YOU bring to children & families



Jenifer Jarriel
President & CEO



Dear Friend,

A safe home and loving family.

These are the greatest gifts you could give to children and youth at this special time of year. Your generosity helps bring stability, tender care and a sense of belonging to children who may not have known them before.

Thanks to your help and the support of our community, many children have experienced the comfort and joy of a loving family — and youth in foster care have

been given the chance to thrive in safe, supportive surroundings.

This year, we began offering two residential programs for youth in foster care at our Today's Harbor campus. These programs are already off to an amazing start — and it's made possible by your faithful partnership.

On the following pages of this holiday edition of *Brighter Tomorrow*, I hope you'll enjoy reading just a few of the many inspiring stories you've helped make possible through your investment in the lives of children, youth and families.

And until **December 31**, please don't miss an amazing opportunity to **DOUBLE your impact** for children and families, thanks to a \$100,000 matching gift challenge from friend and supporter, Ken Bohan.

Thank you for your invaluable support. You continue to make a meaningful and lasting impact in the lives of the children, youth and families we proudly serve. Wishing you and yours the happiest of holidays.

Gratefully,

Jenifer Jarriel
President & CEO

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DePelchin
CHILDREN'S CENTER

4950 Memorial Drive
Houston, Texas 77007
(713) 802-6268
www.depelchin.org



You Help Families Grow



Aranza stands proudly with her sister, Sophia, and parents, Sindy and Augustin, on the day her adoption was finalized.

Like many foster parents, Sindy and Augustin were nervous and unsure the very first time they welcomed a child into their home through foster care. Thanks to friends like you, they were never alone.

“We knew [DePelchin Children’s Center] was there for us,” Sindy says.

Inspired by friends, Sindy and Augustin pursued becoming foster parents through DePelchin. The couple received extensive trauma-informed training to prepare to open their home and guidance throughout their journey.

What the couple couldn’t anticipate was the immeasurable joy and fulfillment their very

first foster placement, Aranza, 4, would bring them and their biological daughter Sophia, 10.

“ We were able to make a difference in her life. ”

Thankfully the family had the support of generous friends like you on the path to eventually adopting Aranza as a permanent member of the family.

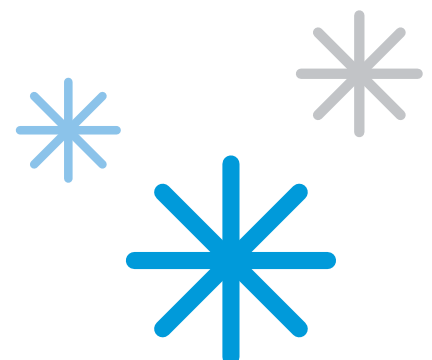
“We were able to make a difference in her life, to give her love and family and do as much as we could have for her,” Sindy says.

Since Aranza’s adoption, her connection with her newfound family has flourished. Aranza

was especially excited to have her name changed to reflect this new chapter of her life.

Sindy shares her hopes and dreams that Aranza and Sophia will continue to grow and be the best sisters they can be for one another.

Thank you for helping build a brighter future for children across Texas and connecting more families with children in need of loving care.

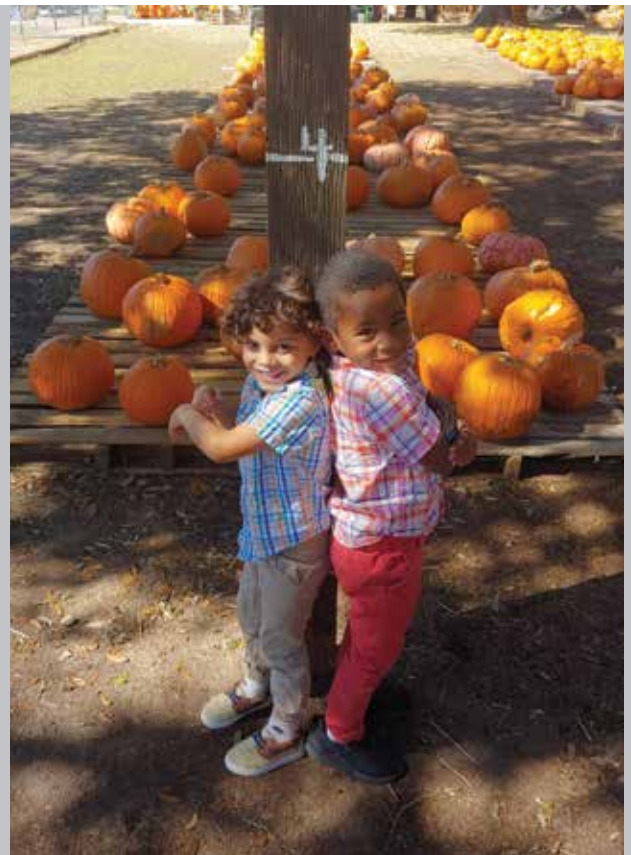


Thank You for
Sharing Hope
This Holiday Season!



DOUBLE Your Impact this Holiday Season!

From now until the end of the year, your gift will go TWICE as far! DePelchin supporter Ken Bohan will generously match your gifts up to \$100,000 when received by December 31. We treasure your support each and every day and don't want you to miss this opportunity.



1892 Society

The 1892 Society is a group of individuals dedicated to carrying out the mission of DePelchin through a legacy gift. The Society was named for the year Kezia DePelchin took three orphaned infants into her care and opened her Faith Home. Thanks to members of the 1892 Society, the legacy inspired by Kezia will continue in perpetuity. For more info, visit www.depelchinlegacy.org.



2023 Holiday Project

Each year, generous supporters help fill the holiday wish lists of more than 1,000 children in our care. We rely on companies, community and faith groups, and individuals to host collection drives for some of our most needed items like gift cards, sensory items, bicycles and much more. To learn how to get involved, please visit www.depelchin.org/holiday-project.

Lighting a Path to a Brighter Future

In January, A Lighted Path, led by President Lori Gobillot, launched a new initiative to serve young adults who have aged out of foster care.

A Lighted Path was formed by St. John the Divine Church. In partnership with DePelchin, Lori and volunteers developed the Adults in Training program, providing resources and opportunities for young adults (ages 18–20) to achieve meaningful goals and reach their full potential.

“ You see people of all different ages, all different backgrounds, really just sharing fellowship, community and unconditional love. ”

Adults in Training serves youth in DePelchin’s TAGS (Transitioning to Adulthood through Guidance and Support) program, which provides housing and support to 20 young residents who have aged out of foster care and are currently transitioning into adulthood.

Lori pairs youth from the TAGS program with a volunteer from

A Lighted Path, who serves as a resource, mentor and “light” for a young adult.

Every Thursday night, the program offers a life skills class and meal for participants. Here, volunteer professionals cover a range of important topics including financial literacy, managing difficult relationships, navigating college and so much more.

“When we’re all together, you see people of all different ages, all

different backgrounds, really just sharing fellowship, community and unconditional love,” Lori says.

With DePelchin’s long history of impact and ability to meet our community’s ever-changing needs, Lori felt DePelchin was an ideal partner to support children and youth.

Thanks to the kindness and compassion of people like Lori and the volunteers with A Lighted Path, more youth in our community will have vital resources and opportunities for success.



A Lighted Path volunteer meeting with a TAGS resident



Lori and Cameron celebrate him getting his own apartment.



Yelina and her husband, William with Angeline, Liam and Adam.

Raising healthy and happy children is just what Yelina and her husband, William, are working towards, and it's through your support of DePelchin's ParentingHelp program that the couple is gaining the tools needed to make their goal more of a reality.

"It is through these programs that parents are taught how to be more positive and grow healthy and happy children," says Yelina.

Yelina and William have three children, Adam, 4, Liam, 3, and Angeline, 1. When the couple noticed Liam was having difficulty

managing his emotions, they spoke to a social worker at Liam's school and received a referral for the ParentingHelp program.

After enrolling in the program, the couple learned how to integrate healthy practices like talking about their emotions to help Liam process them.

It is through these programs that parents are taught how to be more positive and grow healthy and happy children.

You Help Liam Shine

"Little by little I was able to help Liam express himself in a healthier manner," Yelina says.

Yelina and William have now taken home new tools — including a behavior chart — to better guide Liam and the entire family. This tool has been a game changer, Yelina says, motivating Liam and his siblings to reach their goals in engaging and rewarding ways.

Yelina adds that she looks forward to seeing Liam thrive on his new path to a brighter future.

"My hope is that Liam will grow into an independent, sociable and fearless individual," she says.

Thank you for helping build healthier, stronger bonds between children and families.



You Helped Amari Find His Forever Family

Brianne and TJ trained to become foster parents through DePelchin five years ago and have since served as foster parents for five children, ranging in ages and lengths of stay. But when Amari arrived at just 19 months old, they turned his short-term stay into a permanent home with the help of DePelchin.

“It does make a difference,” Brianne says of your support. “You really are setting up these kids for a nurturing, wonderful life.”

Brianne continues, “[Being a foster parent] is probably the

hardest thing I’ve ever done, but it’s also the most wonderful thing I’ve ever done.”

“*You really are setting up these kids for a nurturing, wonderful life.*”

She says it’s important to remember that opening your home isn’t just about the parents but about the other children in the home as well. Long before welcoming their first foster placement, Brianne and TJ spent time openly communicating with

their biological kids, Stetson, 12, McCoy, 11 and Autrie, 6.

“It’s all of us together and it affects all of us,” Brianne says. “If we can just love a child and make this transition a little lighter, a little easier, then it’s worth it.”

Through a year and a half of visitation and going through the adoption process, the couple can now officially call Amari their son after finalizing his adoption this past June.

Now, Brianne says the family enjoys making lasting memories by taking trips, playing mini golf and swimming. Brianne and TJ are taking a brief break before opening their home again as foster parents through DePelchin.

“Thank you,” Brianne says to kind-hearted supporters like you. “Thank you for pouring into these children — that makes a world of difference and makes them feel seen and known.”



Amari with parents Brianne and TJ, and siblings Stetson, McCoy and Autrie on Amari’s adoption day.

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

