



DePelchin
CHILDREN'S CENTER

Spring 2024
Newsletter



Brighter Tomorrow



Stories of hope YOU bring to children & families



Jenifer Jarriel
President & CEO

Dear Friend,

You Give Hope for a Brighter Tomorrow

Spring always reminds me of the hope of transformation — days getting longer, weather warming up and flowers blooming. At this time of year, I'm especially grateful for friends like you, who help to transform lives every day.

Because of you, countless vulnerable children across Texas are a part of caring homes, and now have the hope of a brighter future.

With your generosity, you provide counseling and parenting programs for children and families, as well as life-changing foster and adoptive services that ensure all children have the safety and support of a loving family.

We couldn't fulfill our mission to strengthen the lives of children without your partnership. Together, we're providing more children with nurturing support systems that will set them up for success throughout their lives.

In this spring edition of *Brighter Tomorrow*, you'll read about several families who have experienced transformation and hope because of your generosity.

Your kindness paves the way for a brighter tomorrow for children like Reba (page 7). As you'll read, because of supporters like you, DePelchin was able to help Reba's family at a critical time and they are grateful for your support.

Thank you for joining DePelchin to create a stronger future for children and families across Texas. I look forward to our continued partnership throughout this year!

With gratitude,

Jenifer Jarriel
President & CEO

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Our Mission

We strengthen the lives of children by enhancing their mental health and physical well-being.



DePelchin
CHILDREN'S CENTER

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Chelsye with son Koren and daughter, now 3 and 4.



At just one week old, Chelsye’s son Koren developed bacterial meningitis and had to spend two long months in the hospital.

Thankfully, he recovered, but Chelsye worried that his illness would impact his development down the line. And with the family’s daughter at home, she wanted to ensure that both children had everything they needed in order to flourish.

During a visit to the pediatrician, Chelsye was introduced to DePelchin’s ParentingHelp program, a free, 9-session course that covers topics ranging from stress management to problem solving and child development. Right away, she was interested.

“I wanted to make sure that I could...remain calm and focused with parenting,” she says.

“ I just really felt a lot of support as a mom and a parent. ”

ParentingHelp provided the support Chelsye needed to excel as a parent. Chelsye was paired with a DePelchin clinician, Graciela, who helped her navigate the challenges she faced. “She shared empathy and connected. She really heard what was going on and advised [me] through those situations,” she describes.

Over the course of the program, she processed her own emotions about her son’s development

and continued to make positive steps forward.

“As you...become a parent yourself, you realize that [your parents] were learning on the job too,” Chelsye says, adding that DePelchin helped her gain the tools she needed to parent successfully.

Koren and his sister, now 3 and 4, are thriving, thanks in part to friends like you who give to support DePelchin Children’s Center and their ParentingHelp program. “I just really felt a lot of support as a mom and a parent,” Chelsye says. “The program contributes more than the curriculum.”

Thank you for your steadfast partnership!

Thank You for *Sharing Hope* This Spring!



Rick Burluson, Cecily Burluson,
Mary Webber and Temple
Webber at the 2023 Families for
Kids Luncheon.

Families for Kids Luncheon

Thursday, April 25 at River Oaks Country Club

DePelchin's annual luncheon honoring FOX 26 Houston will take place Thursday, April 25. Our keynote speaker for the event is best selling author and speaker, Dave Pelzer. For more information or to make your reservation, please visit www.depelchin.org/luncheon

Thank you TaxAct Texas Bowl!

Thank you to the TaxAct Texas Bowl and all of the supporters of last year's event. Since 2006, more than \$2.5 million in funding 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.





Thank You!

We Appreciate Ken Bohan!

This past holiday season, generous friend of DePelchin, Ken Bohan, offered an incredible \$100,000 matching gift challenge. Thanks to the support of our community of donors, we met and exceeded the matched goal to help even more children and families! Thank you to all our donors and to Ken Bohan for investing in the lives of vulnerable children this past holiday season!

Child Abuse Prevention Month

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month — an opportunity to recognize the importance of communities working together to strengthen families. In 2023, there were 58,120 child 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.



Junior League of Houston and DePelchin leaders bringing awareness to Child Abuse Prevention Month in 2023.

1892 Society

DePelchin's 1892 Society recognizes the generous supporters who have included DePelchin Children's Center in their legacy giving plan. Members of this group choose to leave a bequest to DePelchin in their will or estate plans in order to ensure children and families have access to life-changing support for generations to come. Members have the added benefit of allowing their loved ones to save significantly on income taxes for the assets they leave to them. To find out how you can join the 1892 Society, please reach out to Audrey Wargo Donadi at adonadi@depelchin.org.

A Valued Partnership: The Ascend Cares Foundation



In November of 2022, DePelchin Children's Center assumed the campus assets of Today's Harbor for Children – an organization based in La Porte, Texas, that served children, youth, and families for over 75 years. Following this transition, Ascend Performance Materials, a longtime partner of Today's Harbor for Children, joined DePelchin's mission to continue serving vulnerable children in our community.

“ DePelchin helps set families up for success. ”

Through the Ascend Cares Foundation, the philanthropic branch of Ascend Performance Materials, staff members like Krissy

work to make a difference in the lives of others through volunteering and fundraising. In fact, one of the company's values is to care for the communities in which they operate.

“I know that DePelchin cares for the children and the families that they work with,” Krissy says. “They want to make a difference in the community.”

Over the past two years, volunteers from Ascend Cares have committed many hours to help DePelchin bring hope and healing to children and families. One volunteer experience that Krissy found especially meaningful was organizing DePelchin's Donation Station – where donations of diapers, clothes and other items families need most are collected and distributed.

“There's a big need in the community, especially now with inflation,” she says, adding “DePelchin helps set families up for success.”

In addition to their hours of volunteerism, Ascend has given to help incentivize families to participate in programs, sponsored the Families for Kids luncheon, pledged \$50,000 towards our new volunteer services building and much more! In addition, their CEO, Phil McDivitt, serves on DePelchin's Board of Directors.

We are so grateful to the whole Ascend Cares team for supporting our important mission!

You Make Family's Dreams Come True

This January, after 833 days in foster care, 2-year-old Brodi's life changed forever — he officially joined Brittany and Michael's family as the new little brother to four older siblings. Your generosity helped ensure that little Brodi finally felt the safety of his forever home.

Brittany and Michael's journey began in August of 2018, when they received their first placement from DePelchin after completing the training and requirements to become licensed foster parents. Ever since, Brittany says, DePelchin

has been there through six foster placements and three adoptions.

"It's a matter of heart, and these kids have been through a lot and deserve the world. It's nice having the extra support," Brittany says.

Providing a welcoming, loving home for all of her children is one of Brittany's biggest priorities.

"I want them to know they are as loved as any child, and DePelchin has really facilitated that," she says.

She explains that every DePelchin case manager has ended up feeling like family. "We had case managers who would bring treats for the kids," she explains.

I want them to know they are loved as any child, and DePelchin has really facilitated that.

From supportive case management to gifts during the holidays, back-to-school support and even social events for children, your generosity goes a long way for families like Brodi's! Thank you!



Brittany and Michael pictured with Brodi on his adoption day.

You Empower Adoptive Parents

On December 10, 2021, baby Reba was born, adding a beautiful new smile to the world. Just four days later, she was placed with Amanda and Alfonso, foster parents who were so excited to give Reba a loving, caring home.

Like her six biological siblings, Reba needed a long-term placement, which Amanda and Alfonso were more than happy to provide. After celebrating her first birthday, the family had even more to celebrate — because after a long back and forth, they learned they would soon become Reba's adoptive parents.

But just two days after Reba's first birthday, Alfonso was admitted to the ICU for a blood clot. The day after he returned home, he passed away.

"He was the only daddy she ever knew," Amanda shares tearfully.

Amanda says that finalizing Reba's adoption during this period of grief and

change was made easier with DePelchin's support.

"DePelchin was with me every step of the way, through the grief and the final adoption," she says. Recalling the courtroom on Reba's adoption day, she says, "My caseworker... held my hand through it all."

Now two years old, Reba is a beloved toddler learning and growing under the guidance and care of Amanda and the memory of her loving father Alfonso.

*DePelchin was
“with me every step
of the way, through
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Thank you for empowering adoptive parents through your support of DePelchin. Your generosity truly helps build stronger, happier families.



*Growing fast!
Reba just turned
two last year.*



*Mother, Amanda Sosa,
with baby Reba, 2.*



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