



DePelchin  
CHILDREN'S CENTER

Spring 2025  
Newsletter



# Brighter Tomorrow

Stories of hope YOU bring to children & families



Jenifer Jarriel  
President & CEO

## Dear Friend,

Spring always reminds me of new beginnings and renewed hope. I am so grateful that you help give the hope of a brighter tomorrow to so many vulnerable children.

Because of friends like you, countless kids in our communities have access to the resources needed to grow and thrive as well as the safety of a loving home.

Your generosity helps DePelchin provide foster and adoptive services, counseling and parenting programs, and many more tools that ensure children and the families who care for them have every opportunity to succeed.

Because of friends like you, kids can access the comprehensive care required to heal and grow. Together, we're bringing children nurturing support systems that will set them up for success throughout their lives.

Over the next few pages, you can read our spring edition of *Brighter Tomorrow* where you'll meet a

few of the families who have been impacted by your partnership.

I hope you are inspired as you learn how your compassion helps provide resources like therapy for Lianni to help her heal and thrive (page 8).

*Thank you.* You make our mission possible. I look forward to creating stronger, healthier futures for the children and families we serve.

With gratitude,

Jenifer Jarriel  
President & CEO



Londyn is a happy, active, 3-year-old who loves learning so much that she often runs to her preschool classroom.

**“** *These are tools I can use for the rest of my life...* **”**

After her mother's parental rights were terminated, Londyn's dad, Chris, worked with Child Protective Services to receive full custody of Londyn and signed up for a voluntary Parenting Program. He began attending DePelchin's Fatherhood program, a multi-week course to provide parenting support for fathers and father figures.

“I'm very grateful for it,” Chris shares. “Without the tools that I've gained from the Fatherhood program, I wouldn't have the life that I have with Londyn. [She] means everything to me.”

As an active parent, Chris shares that he “take[s] something out of every session, every week” and says hearing from other dads has been especially beneficial.

In addition to Londyn, Chris has five older children and he shares that “these are tools I can use for the rest of my life and for all my kids.”

In fact, your partnership helps dads just like Chris learn how

You  
Support  
Caregivers

to manage feelings of stress, care for their mental health as well as that of their children so they can give their kids the best care possible.

Chris shares a word of thanks for donors like you who make it possible for him and many more fathers to be a part of this program.

“Lives will be changed,” he says of the program's impact. “It's very important to keep this program going.”

Your passion for the well-being of children and the families who support them is truly making a difference. Thank you!

### DePelchin Board of Directors

W. Temple Webber III  
Chair

Susan R. Barnes, Ph.D.  
Chair-elect

Jason A. Rocha  
Secretary

Laura Bellows  
Kenneth J. Bohan  
Pam Brasseux  
Kayla Bruzzese  
Mark A. Buechler  
Cecily Burleson  
Nancy I. Cook, Ph.D.  
Sue Nan Cutsinger  
Karen Davis  
June Deadrick  
Susie Distefano  
John C. Elkins  
Vanessa D. Gilmore

Donald Hatter  
Chris Hensman  
Santos Hinojosa  
Phil Innes  
Scott Janoe, J.D.  
Mike Johnston  
Debbi M. Johnstone  
William Knull, III  
Pam Lovett  
Stephanie Magers  
Phil McDivitt  
Lindy McGee, M.D.  
Darayus Pardivala  
William E. Turcotte  
Rich Walton  
Janeana White-Lewis, M.D.  
Frank M. Wozencraft, Jr.

Jenifer Jarriel, MBA  
President and CEO

### Foundation and Trust for DePelchin Children's Center Board

Jim Henderson  
Chair

Harper B. Trammell  
Vice Chair

John C. Bass  
Keri D. Brown  
Deborah Byers  
Kay Forbes  
Jamie G. House  
Kelly M. Layne

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

### DePelchin Board of Directors Emeriti

Emily Crosswell  
Anne Duncan  
Jesse H. Jones, II  
Nancy G. Kinder  
H. Malcolm Lovett, Jr.  
Flo McGee  
Susan Lawhon Padon  
Pat Powers  
Charles Szalkowski  
Ann Trammell



4950 Memorial Drive  
Houston, Texas 77007  
(713) 802-7645  
www.depelchin.org



# You're Sharing Hope



## Families for Kids Luncheon Wednesday, April 23 at River Oaks Country Club

Co-chairs Glenda Gordy and Alicia Gordy invite you to join them at DePelchin's annual luncheon honoring Tokio Marine HCC. Our keynote speaker for the event is entrepreneur and author, Peter Mutabazi. For more information or to make your reservation, please visit <https://www.depelchin.org/dcc-luncheon-2025/>.

## Help Fill Our New Building with Essential Items for Kids

This year, DePelchin will be opening our new Junior League of Houston Volunteer Services Building. This new facility will have four times the space, and we need your help to fill it!

You can partner with DePelchin to help us better serve the children in our care by dropping off items they need at our Memorial Campus.

For questions or to schedule a donation drop off, please reach out to Corrina Jimenez, Manager, Volunteer Services and Community Engagement ([cjimenez@depelchin.org](mailto:cjimenez@depelchin.org)).

Here are some of the essential items needed most to support the children and families we serve:

- Children's Clothing and Shoes (all sizes)
- Diapers & Wipes
- Arts & Crafts
- Board games
- Educational & Sensory toys
- Legos
- Tablets, headphones, and interactive toys



## 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.

## DePelchin's 1892 Society Legacy Giving Group

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 Dana Van Brunt at [dvanbrunt@depelchin.org](mailto:dvanbrunt@depelchin.org).



# Kinder's Texas Bowl and Houston Texans Foundation Unite to Bring Joy



Kickoff Kid MacKenzie, 5, for Baylor with Baylor Cheerleader

For eighteen years, DePelchin Children's Center has been the charitable beneficiary of the Kinder's Texas Bowl, a renowned sporting event hosted by Lone Star Sports & Entertainment, LSSE.

Over the past ten years, the Houston Texans Foundation has been the steward of LSSE's relationship with DePelchin Children's Center.

David Fletcher, the General Manager of LSSE, says that financial support is not all they provide for DePelchin. "At its core, we serve the families, the kids and the staff, and we do that through a number of opportunities year-round."

Together, the Houston Texans Foundation and LSSE create

opportunities for DePelchin children to experience healing, joy and fun as a family. They do this by hosting events like the DePelchin Field Day, when children and families get to step onto the field of NRG Stadium and meet the college football teams competing in the Texas Bowl Game.

**“As DePelchin grows and the need grows, we are looking at ways that we can help [DePelchin] in that effort.”**

When David reflects on the past 18 years of DePelchin family events he says, "I always look at the genuine happiness on the kids' faces." It's clear that the children are making memories that will last a lifetime.

Not only do these organizations offer moments of joy to vulnerable children and the families who care for them, but they also run drives for items the children need and host an annual golf tournament benefitting DePelchin. Through their efforts, they have contributed millions of dollars to support DePelchin children and families over the course of our partnership.

"As DePelchin grows and the need grows, we are looking at ways that we can help [DePelchin] in that effort," shares David, on behalf of all the organizations involved.

Thank you, Kinder's Texas Bowl and Houston Texans Foundation for your committed partnership. We are so grateful for all that you do.

# You Help Children Thrive

"You [are making] a generational impact," shares Staci.

Staci and Tony were inspired to begin their journey of fostering and adopting because Tony himself is adopted and wanted other children to experience the same love and joy he had as a child. Their family recently grew after they adopted Raphael, affectionately known as Ralphie, and they are currently fostering Ralphie's sister, with plans to adopt her as well.

When Ralphie was born, he was referred to CPS because he had been exposed to drugs. While in

the NICU, he was placed in foster care with another agency. He was later transferred to DePelchin where Staci and Tony worked closely with his former foster family to make his transition as smooth as possible. On his adoption day, Ralphie not only gained loving parents, two older siblings — Elijah and Lizzy — but a whole community as well. There were 30 people at the court to celebrate his big day!

"[Ralphie] has an entire village to surround him," Staci shares. "He's got a whole team for him — not just us — DePelchin and so many people."

Ralphie loves dinosaurs and big trucks and has a "very adventurous spirit," according to his parents. "[Ralphie's] default is humor and joy," Tony says.

**“We couldn't have done this without the people supporting DePelchin.”**

We are so grateful for the crucial role you play in supporting children like Ralphie. Together, we are impacting generations, ensuring more children like him and his little sister are safe and healthy.

For friends like you, Staci shares, "We couldn't have done this without the people supporting DePelchin."



Ralphie's adoption day was a big celebration with Staci, Tony, Elijah, Lizzy and his whole community.

# Thank You for Building Forever Families

“They both have lots of sass and charm,” Kera says proudly when describing sisters Lianni, 3, and Camaya, 1.

Kera first fostered and then adopted the girls. She says that the two now enjoy anything from a trip through the car wash to an outing at the zoo.

“When I first met Lianni,” Kera recalls, “she was very quiet, and now Lianni talks from sunup to sundown. She doesn’t meet a stranger. I think anyone who meets her instantly loves her.”

“ *[DePelchin has] really given us the resources for [the girls] to be successful.* ”

Kera says both girls have grown and changed so much.

Camaya was only one week old when she was placed with Kera. Now, “She’s a little sour patch. She’s sweet and sour all at the same time, and I think she’s going to be talkative, just like her sister.”

DePelchin has provided many resources for Kera and the girls, including therapy for Lianni. Kera shares, “It just really sets her up for success to work on any trauma that she’s experienced.”

Kera is grateful that DePelchin “always went the extra mile” and has been “very supportive,” ensuring the girls’ needs were always met.

With that support firmly behind the family, Kera hopes her girls will “grow to be kind, happy individuals, and I want to see them overcome the trauma that they experienced.”

Caring friends like you help provide children like Lianni and Camaya with loving homes, caring support and the resources to grow and thrive.

*Lianni and Camaya have a forever family with Kera.*



**DePelchin**  
CHILDREN'S CENTER

For more information about DePelchin Children's Center or how to get involved, visit us at [www.depelchin.org](http://www.depelchin.org)