



 **BRIGHTER**
TOMORROW

Stories of hope
YOU bring to
children & families

Spring 2026 Newsletter



Jenifer Jarriel
President & CEO

Dear Friend,

As the days get longer, I'm filled with hope at the prospect of new beginnings and transformation. Together, we are helping create brighter tomorrows for countless children in vulnerable situations, and I'm so grateful.

Your partnership helps us serve even more children and families through foster care and adoption, counseling and family services, and other life-changing programs. I'm excited to share that this year

DePelchin is expanding our services to deliver Community Based Care (CBC) through a new division, Texans Together.

CBC is a landmark reform of foster care services in Texas. Through Texans Together, we hope to make meaningful changes to the foster care system to build prevention alongside intervention, hope and resilience alongside trauma awareness, and healthy families as the place where children thrive. If you'd like to learn more, please check out our website www.depelchin.org/texanstogether/.

Please enjoy reading this spring edition of *Brighter*

Tomorrow, where you'll meet kids like 7-year-old Kamaldeen (page 3) and 6-year-old Zaayden (page 6). Partners like you help provide the support and resources these and so many more kids need to succeed and thrive.

From all of us here at DePelchin — thank you! Your kindness and compassion make a profound impact on the children and families we proudly serve.

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.



Adetokunbo is grateful for the support she and Kamaldeen have received.

After school, 7-year-old Kamaldeen likes to sit and play with his toys, and often, he wants his mom, Adetokunbo, to join him.

“We play with the toys, use the remote to make the car run around the house,” Adetokunbo says. “He’s been so happy and excited about it.”

A Strong FOUNDATION

But things weren’t always so simple. When Kamaldeen was only a few months old, the pair traveled to Adetokunbo’s home country of Nigeria, where doctors found three holes in Kamaldeen’s heart. They returned to the U.S. for his surgery, which was successful.

“My heart[’s] desire, my wish for him was [to be] okay,” shares Adetokunbo.

Parenting without the support of family brought on significant

challenges. That’s when Adetokunbo was referred to DePelchin’s Family Resource Center. DePelchin staff provided a school uniform, shoes, a bed railing, a bicycle and many toys for Kamaldeen.

“He got everything [he needed]...I cried,” Adetokunbo says. “I did not believe he was ever going to get those things.”

Adetokunbo also received free counseling through DePelchin and was connected with a partner agency who helped provide the financial assistance to help pay her electric bill.

“[DePelchin] actually blessed my life,” Adetokunbo shares. “I’m super, super grateful for every single help I receive from there.”

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CHILDREN AND FAMILIES thrive because of you

Thank You for Supporting our 2025 Holiday Project

This past holiday season, supporters like you helped us fulfill wish lists for the kids in our care through the 2025 Holiday Project. Together, we filled over 2,200 children's wish lists. Thank you so much for generously supporting kids in vulnerable situations.

We Appreciate Ken Bohan and Dean O'Kelley!

This past holiday season, generous friends of DePelchin, Ken Bohan and Dean O'Kelley, 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 and Dean O'Kelley for investing in the lives of vulnerable children this past holiday season.





Families for Kids Luncheon

Thursday, April 23 at River Oaks Country Club

Co-chairs Karen and Ric Davis invite you to join them at DePelchin's annual luncheon honoring Sulzer USA. Our keynote speaker for the event is YouTube Creator of the 'Dad, How Do I' series, Rob Kenney. For more information or to make your reservation, please visit www.depelchin.org/luncheon.

DePelchin's 1892 Society Legacy Giving Group

DePelchin's *1892 Society* recognizes the generous supporters who have included DePelchin in their legacy giving plans. Members of this group choose to leave a bequest to DePelchin in their will or estate plan to ensure that 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 Christian Losche at closche@depelchin.org.

Zaayden and his **FOREVER FAMILY**

Together, 6-year-old Zaayden and his parents enjoy traveling, watching movies, playing mini-golf, swimming at the beach and more.

Zaayden loves being active through basketball, soccer, mixed martial arts and anything else that catches his eye.

“Keep up the good work. It’s a very needed and valued service... and we’re very appreciative.”

“Every time a new sport comes on the TV, [Zaayden] is just like ‘I need to do that. I want to do that,’ his mom, Amanda, says with a laugh.



Amanda and Tony cheer Zaayden on at mixed martial arts.

Not much is known about Zaayden’s life before he came into Tony and Amanda’s home. At only four years old, he was surrendered to a temporary facility. Then, he spent a year and a half with Tony and Amanda as his foster family.

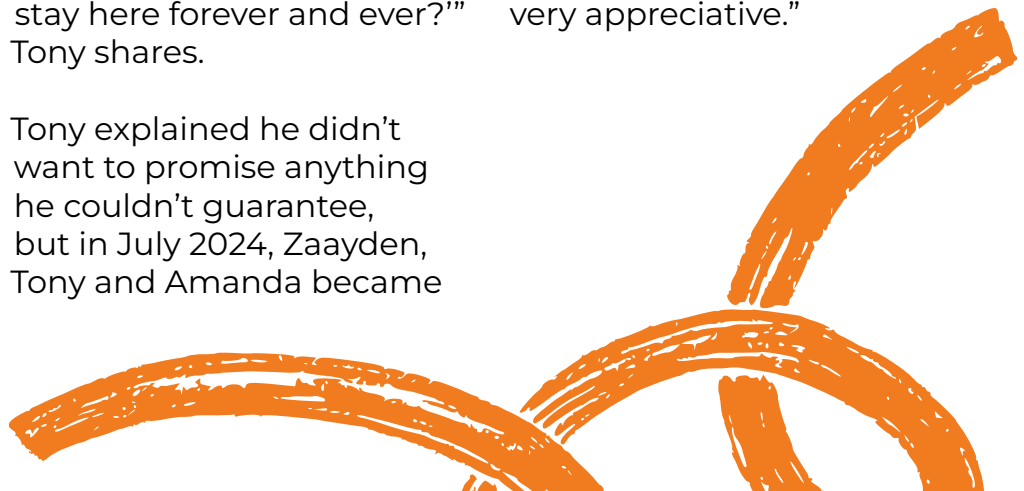
“[Zaayden] kept asking ‘can I stay here forever and ever?’” Tony shares.

Tony explained he didn’t want to promise anything he couldn’t guarantee, but in July 2024, Zaayden, Tony and Amanda became

a forever family through adoption.

Once the family received the judge’s decree, Tony said, “Now you can [stay with us forever] bud.”

To donors like you, Tony says, “keep up the good work. It’s a very needed and valued service... and we’re very appreciative.”



A FAMILY FOR Hunter and Harper

Hunter, 3, and Harper, 2, are thriving in the care of their loving parents.

Hunter loves his school friends, his teacher, playing outside, learning how to swim and more.

“We’re so proud of him for what he’s accomplished,” mom Lauren says.

Trey, their dad, adds, “And Harper’s right behind him... Everything big brother’s doing — she’s like I’m ready to do that.”

It was a Tuesday evening after 9pm when the siblings arrived. Hunter was 14 months old and in need of a bath and loving care. He arrived with “only the clothes he had on his back.” Harper was only 2 days old, barely 5 pounds and had just been released from the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU).

Since then, Hunter and Harper have been adopted by Lauren and Trey.

“They haven’t missed [a milestone] yet,” says Lauren, proudly. “They’re just doing so good.”

Hunter was a 2025 Kinder’s Texas Bowl Kickoff Kid. The whole family made unforgettable memories together at the Texas Bowl game and cheering the University of Houston to victory.

When referencing the support of DePelchin, Lauren says, “It’s life changing. I think it’s amazing what everybody does — volunteering, donating. You help a lot of kids.”

“It’s life changing. I think it’s amazing what everybody does — volunteering, donating. You help a lot of kids.”

Hunter and Harper have flourished since coming into Trey and Lauren’s home two years ago.



Hunter, Harper, Trey, and Lauren at the Texas Bowl game, cheering on University of Houston.



A Grandmother's DEEP LOVE

Teri and her grandkids, Terynce, 11, and Ta’Nia, 13, can often be found playing family games together at their kitchen table.

“When I think of Ta’Nia I just think of the sweetest thing I’ve ever met and Terynce is like the smartest young man I have ever met,” Teri shares with pride.

“Without your donations and time...to help grandparents, like myself, we would not be able to see this thing through.”

When Teri adopted Terynce, she already had custody of his sister Ta’Nia. Homelessness and drug use by his mother led to Terynce being removed from her care.

The first few days they spent just the three of them, Teri remembers, “we were really happy to be together.”

Then, challenges arose for Teri as the reality of the financial burden and more began to set in.

“[Life] was pretty chaotic,” Teri shares, “I felt lost. I felt like no one understood. I was really searching for... an organization that could help me...be successful with my grandchildren.”

That’s what Teri found through DePelchin’s Kinship Care program — “love, grace, understanding, a listening ear.” Kinship caregivers provide a way for kids to stay with family when they cannot live with their birth parents.

Terynce was chosen as a 2025 Texas Bowl Kickoff Kid. They all enjoyed meeting players, experiencing on-field activities, and watching an exciting game



Teri, Terynce and Ta’Nia enjoy spending time together.

as the ambassador family to LSU.

“Without your donations and time...to help grandparents, like myself, we would not be able to see this thing through,” Teri says.

Thank you for providing the mental, emotional and financial resources that caregivers like Teri need to succeed.



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