



DePelchin
CHILDREN'S CENTER

Holiday 2024
Newsletter



Brighter Tomorrow



Stories of hope YOU bring to children & families



Jenifer Jarriel
President & CEO



Dear Friend,

The holiday season is the perfect time to pause and reflect on all that we have to be thankful for.

This year, I'm grateful for friends like you who work with us to ensure all children are part of safe, caring homes.

Of course, your generosity also makes it possible for children living in foster and adoptive homes to experience the joy of this special season.

You can help make dreams come true through DePelchin's Holiday Project, which is underway again this year to provide gifts and essential items to children in our communities.

And until **December 31**, you can **DOUBLE your impact** for children and families, thanks to a \$100,000 matching gift challenge from friend and supporter, Ken Bohan.

In this holiday edition of *Brighter Tomorrow*, you'll read inspiring stories about how your dedication to DePelchin's mission has changed lives just like Alyssa's (page 8). Because of your partnership, DePelchin helped

find Alyssa a forever home with the support she needed to heal, dream big and thrive.

Thank you for creating a brighter tomorrow for children and families throughout our community. I look forward to our continued partnership this holiday season and into the new year.

Wishing you and yours the happiest of holidays!

Gratefully,

Jenifer Jarriel
President & CEO



Lindsey and Jared can vividly remember the day a single phone call forever changed their future... and their family. It was, after all, a call like no other.

The couple had recently decided to add to their family of four by fostering to adopt through DePelchin because they felt a need to provide safety and love to even more children.

After becoming licensed foster parents, Lindsey received a call one Monday with news that a baby boy had been born the previous Friday and dropped off at a local fire station. The couple was asked if they would be his foster parents.

"We said 'yes' immediately," Lindsey says.



Jared, Lindsey, Ryan Marie, Carson and Luke.

Child Protective Services even asked what the couple would like to name him. After a few days in the NICU, the couple welcomed baby Luke to his new home.

“ These are real life stories and real children and [your gifts] make a real impact. ”

Shortly after Luke's birth, it was discovered that his skull bones were fused together. Thankfully, he had neurosurgery at three months old that gave his brain room to grow. As a part of his recovery, Luke had to wear a helmet for a few months.

Although Luke took a little longer than usual to develop, Lindsey and Jared share that, today, he is helmet free and thriving! Luke can always be found singing and dancing to music. He also loves being outside, riding his scooter and playing in the sandbox.

"[He's] truly a happy child," says Lindsey.

Just before his second birthday, Luke and his whole family celebrated his adoption day. His parents and sisters are thrilled to be Luke's forever family.

"These are real life stories and real children and [your gifts] make a real impact," Lindsey says to generous donors like you.

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Thank You for *Sharing Hope* This Holiday Season!

DOUBLE Your Impact this Holiday Season!

From now until the end of the year, your impact 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, which is a designated donation to DePelchin in a will or estate plan. 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. To learn more about leaving a legacy of compassion, visit www.depelchinlegacy.org.



Thank you Texas Bowl!

Thank you to the Texas Bowl and all the supporters of this 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 a multitude of DePelchin children and families at special events — providing memories to last a lifetime.



2024 Holiday Project

Each year, generous supporters help fill the holiday wish lists of children in our care — 1,460 children's wishes last year alone. 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-holiday-project.org.

Volunteer Spotlight: Sulzer

Sulzer is a Swiss machinery company that operates in over 40 countries and has been running for 190 years. With the goal of being a good business partner in all the communities they work in, Sulzer is a proud supporter of DePelchin Children's Center.

The work that DePelchin is doing really makes a difference in the world.

For over 25 years, Sulzer has worked with child service programs, especially Today's

Harbor — which is now operated by DePelchin.

Darayus Pardivala, P.E. President – Americas, has in many ways led this partnership during the 30 years that he has worked at Sulzer.

For many years, Darayus was on the board of Today's Harbor before it became a part of DePelchin, and he currently serves on the board of DePelchin Children's Center.

"I've been involved with this cause for at least 22 years, and I would tell you that from all the organizations I've seen, DePelchin by far is the most professionally and efficiently run organization," Darayus says.

"If it wasn't, then I wouldn't be involved with it."

Today, Sulzer and its staff support DePelchin in numerous ways, one of which is organizing an event to meet the needs of over 30 children during the holiday season. Many Sulzer employees shop together at Walmart for items like toys, diapers, car seats, strollers and more. Another event that Sulzer and its employees host to raise funds for DePelchin is their annual golf tournament.

"One of the best things to do is help children because they are our future," Darayus says. "The work that DePelchin is doing really makes a difference in the world."

Without generous partners like you, Darayus and Sulzer, DePelchin couldn't accomplish the life-changing work we do in the communities we serve. Thank you!



Volunteers from the Sulzer team shop for their annual holiday children's fund.



Young Edward beaming happily at his father.

Edward is a happy, calm baby who is curious about his surroundings. His mother, Cheyanne, is thankful that she now has better tools to give him the loving care he needs to thrive.

Children are our future and the way to support them is to support the parents.

Shortly after Edward's birth, things were very hard for Cheyanne. While new to motherhood she continued to deal with chronic depression as well as postpartum depression. And struggled to

find a formula that worked for his sensitive stomach, thankfully, after trying three different ones, Cheyanne found one that didn't upset Edward.

Recently, Cheyanne completed DePelchin's ParentingHelp Program and says she found support, which helps her feel more confident about motherhood. She enjoys the community of moms who show up and sometimes even host baby showers for each other.

"Children are our future and the way to support them is to support the parents" she says. "It's the best thing you can do."

Cheyanne works part-time as a library assistant and says she first heard about the ParentingHelp program through a coworker.

During her time in the program, Cheyanne says she has learned many coping skills and feels better prepared for what is to come as she raises her son.

And, through DePelchin, Cheyanne has also built a network who helped her find legal advice for custody issues with her son as well as access to things like formula, diapers and wipes provided by DePelchin.

Because of the generosity from friends like you, Cheyanne has a community of support to call on and the tools to better care for her son. Thank you for building stronger families with DePelchin!



Your Support Helps Children Thrive

Alyssa, 15, can often be found reading or singing along to Hamilton, the musical. She's talented in the sciences but also plays piano, was chosen for select choir, and landed a part in the school play.

For Alyssa, stability and the pursuit of her dreams was not always a guarantee. At 4 years old, she entered the foster care system without a family to call her own, let alone the freedom to dream.

Two years later, at 6 years old, Alyssa met and joined what would become her forever family. Though the transition naturally

brought big adjustments to the entire family, Alyssa's mom, Karen, says DePelchin was with the family throughout the whole journey.

“ [DePelchin] has guided us through every step and been there for us whenever we needed them. ”

“We're very fortunate to have found DePelchin,” Karen says. “The support they've given us has been incredible. They've guided us through every step and have been there for us whenever we needed them.”

Karen shares that, due to Alyssa's early experiences, she initially had behavioral issues at school, and her new school had no prior experience working with children who had endured trauma. Thankfully, DePelchin was there to provide guidance to Alyssa, her teachers, and family so she could heal.

Today, after almost ten years since being adopted, Alyssa is flourishing as a sophomore in high school. This is possible because she received therapy through DePelchin, occupational therapy, the support of her new family and so much more.

Karen shares that Alyssa “is a tremendous artist. At first, she was going to be an animator, and now she says she wants to be a lawyer.”

Thank you for providing so many children — just like Alyssa — with the resources needed to heal through trauma, grow up in safe and loving homes and dream big.



Alyssa, 15



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