

# Today

DePelchin Children's Center

Spring

2007



Celebrating  
**115 Years**  
1892-2007





## DePelchin Children's Center

DePelchin Children's Center is a non-profit organization providing comprehensive counseling and parent-education programs to children, adolescents and families, as well as adoption, foster care and residential treatment services. The agency has served the Houston-area community since 1892.

DePelchin Children's Center receives funding from the United Way, the Texas Department of Protective and Family Services, other governmental agencies, program fees, community support and investment income.

**For more information about services, call 713-730-2335 or toll-free at 1-888-730-2335.**

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# Today

Spring 2007

Curtis C. Mooney, PhD  
President and CEO



## A Tremendous Legacy of Caring

**Kezia Payne DePelchin** was not a woman of means, but throughout her life she reached out to help others. She arrived on Galveston Island in the midst of a yellow fever epidemic, which took the lives of most of her family. She was a teacher, a nurse and an accompanist for the Episcopal Church in Houston. She met and married a musician, but the marriage was short-lived. She had no biological children, but dedicated her life to caring for children and others in need.

Kezia died in the winter of 1893 after contracting pneumonia while walking from Bayland Home, the orphanage in Houston's Woodland Heights where she worked as a caregiver, to the small dwelling on Washington Avenue that served as her newly launched "Faith Project." A trolley ride would have cost a nickel, but Kezia chose to walk and direct that nickel to the support of Faith Home, which she founded six months before.

She died within a week of that walk, leaving the Faith Project without leadership, funding, ownership of facilities or the means to continue. Yet it did. By the time Kezia passed away, the entire city knew of her caring and generous spirit. The day after her death, *The Houston Post* called upon Houstonians to honor Kezia's memory by taking up the mantle of her Faith Project. They called it DePelchin Faith Home, a name that would endure for 90 years.

If Kezia were alive today, she would not recognize our facilities, staff or most of our programs, but she would recognize the compassion bestowed on those in our care. She would not recognize the diagnoses and therapies our clinicians use today, but she would recognize the difference they are making in the lives of children and families. She would not know the children by name or face, but she would recognize their challenges, struggles, hopes and dreams.

The Board is currently engaged in strategic planning, a process that will enable us to set an even stronger course for the future. Our hope is to expand services to reach children with the most critical mental health needs, to find stable homes for those who can not live with their biological families and to help families succeed in a volatile and challenging world.

DePelchin recently completed a peer review process through the Council on Accreditation. The chair of the review team met with members of our Board and later shared with me how impressed she was with their involvement at DePelchin. She commented that our Board volunteers have a true sense of ownership and see the agency's mission as crucial to Houston's children.

Today's volunteer Board members, like those of the early Faith Home, are committed to their charge. Kezia left her Faith Project in the hands of a great city that continues to care for its children through a special place called DePelchin Children's Center. I think Kezia would approve.

I invite you to read "*115 Years of Service to Children and Families*" on the following pages to learn more about the phenomenal history of DePelchin Children's Center!



# *De Pelchin Children's Center*

*1892-2007*

*115 Years of Service to Children & Families*

*Before the invention of the air conditioner, the hand-held calculator and computers . . . before any of the modern conveniences and entitlements we hold dear today, a woman named Kezia Payne DePelchin relied only on her pioneering spirit and faith in humanity when she accepted into her care three orphaned babies in 1892.*

*Those three young boys were the first of thousands who would be cared for over the next century by Kezia's "Faith Home," now DePelchin Children's Center. Sadly, Mrs. DePelchin passed away just one year after founding Faith Home, but compassionate community leaders launched a massive effort after her death to ensure that her work continued and that her dream of providing a safe haven for children in need became a reality.*

*Over the years, many have attempted to chronilog the dates and events that shaped DePelchin Children's Center. This year marks DePelchin's 115th year of serving Houston's children and families, and we would like to share some of our rich history. But the complete history of DePelchin, the one that is not easily put into words, can never be fully documented. It lives mainly in the memories of those who, during their darkest and happiest hours, have passed through our doors.*

## The Early Years, 1892-1910s



Kezia Payne DePelchin

In 1892, Kezia Payne DePelchin, a 64-year old widow and respected teacher, nurse and social worker, called upon a close friend, Mrs. T. W. House, to open a room in her home to care for three orphaned babies. At the time, Mrs. DePelchin served as matron and teacher at Bayland Home, an orphanage for children ages 6 through 12. She could not turn away children who did not meet Bayland's age requirement, so, on May 2, 1892, she christened "Faith Home" at 2410 Washington Avenue, a small, but safe haven for unwanted and abandoned children. Mrs. DePelchin supported the home with her own resources and donations from fellow Houstonians.

### 1893

Mrs. DePelchin became ill and passed away in January 1893. After her death, supporters secured a charter to continue her work and raised funds to build a bigger facility to house an increasing number of orphaned children.

### 1898 -1909

A new larger building was constructed at the corner of Chenevert and Pierce Streets. By 1909, nearly 50 children were being cared for at the facility.



In 1893, Ruth House, one of Kezia's friends and supporters, was elected and served as the first president of the DePelchin Faith Home Board of Directors.



### 1910s

With occupancy at Faith Home on the rise, a bigger home was constructed in 1913 at 2710 Albany Street. This remained the site of Faith Home for the next 25 years. During this time, the United States entered World War I. Throughout those difficult times, the ladies of DePelchin Faith Home continued to care for an average of 75 children.

In 1922, the cost of caring for a child at Faith Home was approximately \$26 per month. Some 28 employees provided shelter, food, clothing, education and loving attention to almost 250 children. Among them was this group of young boys, pictured in front of Faith Home on Albany Street.

## The 1920s-1930s



*The Houston Post captured this photo on April 20, 1930, as Faith Home children were departing for a showing of “Under the Texas Moon” at the Metropolitan Theater. The handsome Willys Sixes and Whippet Cars in which the children rode were furnished by Rice Motors, The Houston Post reported.*

### 1920s

In the 1920s, the “Community Chest” method of soliciting funding for social welfare needs began in Houston.

DePelchin joined the Community Chest, now the United Way, an organization that continues to support DePelchin today.

During the 1920s, Faith Home assumed a new and expanded function in Houston’s child welfare arena. Leaders launched a comprehensive array of services to address the issues of child abuse and neglect, and Faith Home began to receive state and national recognition for its work.

### 1930s

Because of the Great Depression, Faith Home, like the rest of the country, faced severe financial hardships. Illness, overcrowding and a lack of resources forced the agency to enact a temporary policy of not accepting younger children. Instead, babies were placed in foster homes.

In 1933, Faith Home joined the Child Welfare League of America (CWLA), a national collaboration formed in 1920 to assist abused and neglected children nationwide. DePelchin remains part of CWLA today—one of nearly 800 member agencies that together assist 3.5 million abused and neglected children and their families each year with a range of services.

In 1937, Faith Home solicited support to care for all groups of dependent children, including African-Americans, a group traditionally overlooked in racially segregated Houston. In 1939, the Board took the bold step of opening The Negro Child Center, a shelter and foster care program for African-American children. Over the next several years, DePelchin would continue to fight to improve services to Houston’s minority populations.



*When an appeal was made to fund improved facilities for the Negro Child Center, the community responded enthusiastically. Anna Dupree (above), a beautician, donated her life savings of \$20,000 to build a new residential cottage for the children. A school teacher gave \$1,000 to furnish the cottage, and a businessman provided \$50,000 to construct an administration building at 1900 Solo Street in Houston’s Fifth Ward.*



*In 1939, a new building was constructed on Sandman Street. It served as the agency’s main campus until 2002.*

# The 1940s-1950s

## 1940s

As the United States entered World War II, Faith Home caseloads increased while staff size decreased. The agency solicited the support of Harris County to assist with the rising cost of foster care for “public ward” children. A battle ensued, but eventually the county agreed to reimburse Faith Home on a per-capita basis for the care of these children.

*“As a young lad of about eight, I lived with my brother at Faith Home for several years during the 1950s. I have wonderful memories of the home . . . summers spent fishing, swimming and hiking at Spring Camp, attending school at George Washington Junior High, working in the vegetable garden behind the laundry facility, and seeing the huge Christmas decorations that were placed each year across the lawn.”*

— Danny McLean  
Former resident

## 1950s

In the post-war 1950s, the city experienced economic prosperity. As more families’ financial outlook improved, enrollment at Faith Home declined. The needs of Houston’s children and families were changing, and more agencies began providing services, making referrals possible. The average age of children in care increased, and efforts were concentrated on finding homes for these harder-to-place older children and adolescents, many of whom had behavioral problems. Faith Home hired a part-time psychiatrist to work with the children, a strategy that proved effective and was the beginning of more in-depth mental health services eventually offered by the agency.

During the 1950s, it became legal to charge for adoption services. The board approved a plan to charge adoption applicants \$300, but often waived the fee if it was considered to be in the best interest of the child.



*A worker provide storytime for Faith Home children.*



*In addition to their academic studies, children received useful life skills training. Girls were taught mostly cooking, sewing and domestic work, while boys learned yard work, woodworking skills and mechanics.*







# The 1970s

## 1970s

Because of a major reduction in the number of Caucasian children available for adoption, applications were closed temporarily for those who desired Caucasian infants. The board agreed that placing children into an adoptive home before the biological parents' legal rights were terminated was sometimes justified and in the best interest of the child. This decision helped establish faster permanency for children in crisis. Efforts were made to increase payments to foster parents to help increase recruitment.

The numbers of children requiring psychiatric care continued to increase, but due to limited resources, Faith Home temporarily stopped accepting children diagnosed as emotionally disturbed and instead worked closely with Texas Rehabilitation to provide a treatment facility for them. For the first time, severely retarded children in care were tested and evaluated by the Mental Health and Mental Retardation Service and placed in proper schools and classes.

Faith Home's first off-site emergency shelter was established in 1975. In 1979, it was relocated to the main campus.

During the late 1970s, the accessibility of legal abortion and expanded welfare programs made it possible for more young mothers to keep their children, and the number of children available for adoption lessened substantially. Most parents now worked outside the home, and the use of daycare became popular.

Faith Home continued to expand and add services, among them, a new treatment facility for emotionally disturbed children known as "Bayou Place;" a group home in Spring, Texas; classes for foster and biological families; education programs for children in the shelter; care for children of battered wives; and a foster care program for children with mental retardation.



*Sharing his father's passion for DePelchin, H. Malcolm Lovett Jr. joined the board in 1976. He served for more than 20 years as president of both the Foundation board and the operating board of directors.*



*The late Houston philanthropist Ima Hogg, known by most as "Miss Ima," played a crucial role in DePelchin's ability to expand services during the 1970s. Over the years, the Hogg Foundation has provided much-needed financial support for the agency's mental health programs.*



*Through the years, board members and supporters have enjoyed sharing time with the children and families in DePelchin's programs.*

# The 1980s

## 1980s

In 1983, Faith Home's name officially was changed to DePelchin Children's Center to better reflect its identity as a multi-service agency.

Growth continued with the expansion of Bayou Place to include a hospital and two residential treatment units. Services were made available in surrounding areas, including Clear Lake, Montgomery County and Baytown. United Way showed its support by increasing funds as DePelchin added more new programs and services, including:

- an expanded volunteer program;
- post adoption counseling;
- maternity care;
- parent preparation classes;
- day treatment;
- home-based therapy;
- child abuse prevention;
- teen pregnancy prevention; and
- special education programs in some Houston schools.



*In the mid 1980s, Cullen Bayou Place, a division of DePelchin Children's Center, was the only non-profit psychiatric hospital program in Houston and the only one specializing in treating children and adolescents. Services ranged from inpatient hospital and residential treatment to partial hospital and outpatient care, allowing treatment to be tailored to meet the unique needs of each child and family.*



*A parenting class for pregnant teens.*

A nationwide economic recession caused an increase in the need for services. Intake requests rose in all areas. DePelchin's adoption and foster care programs were expanded to include open adoptions and adoption in foreign countries. Qualified single individuals became eligible to serve as foster parents. Additional funding was secured to underwrite placements of African-American infants for adoption.

Bayou Place received accreditation from the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospital Organizations, and, in 1982, it received the largest donation given to any social service agency in Texas history, a \$5 million grant from the Cullen Foundation.

As the United Way attempted to consolidate small single-service agencies with larger multi-service organizations, DePelchin merged with Florence Crittenton Services, a home for pregnant teens. An affiliation agreement with Texas Children's Hospital was signed to jointly operate the Children's Mental Health Center.



*In 1987, Youth Opportunities Unlimited (left), a temporary emergency shelter for adolescents and teenagers located in Richmond, Texas, merged with DePelchin.*

# A Century Ends and

## 1990s

The most significant event of the 1990s was the 1992 merger of DePelchin and Houston Child Guidance Center, a large and well-established provider of mental health services to children and families in the Houston area.

A barrage of social and emotional problems plagued youth and families, including teen pregnancy, drug and alcohol abuse, youth violence, divorce, immigration, abandonment and neglect. DePelchin expanded services to meet the ever-increasing needs of a changing society.

In 1997, facing losses of more than \$1 million a year in one program, DePelchin closed the Residential Treatment Program. By 1998, the need for a new facility was evident. DePelchin's 60-year-old buildings had long outlived their usefulness. In-home foster care services had replaced the need for cottages that once housed dozens of children.



*Former Executive Director and CEO Bob Barker with DePelchin clients in 1992.*

## 2000s

In 2001, an architect was hired to design a new facility that could house all core services under one roof. A Capital Campaign was launched to raise funds to construct a new program services building at the Memorial campus, renovate remaining buildings and add a classroom/gym facility at the Richmond campus.

A shortage of residential treatment facilities in Houston prompted DePelchin to reopen its Isabel Elkins Residential Treatment Center in 2000. Rather than following its previous medical model, however, the new model was designed to serve primarily children referred by Texas Department of Family and Protective Services. In 2005, DePelchin also converted all 20 beds of its emergency shelter in Richmond, Texas, into a residential treatment center.

In 2002, a successful Capital Campaign, including a major gift from board member Nancy Kinder and her husband Rich, provided DePelchin Children's Center with a new, state-of-the-art facility, as well as new classrooms, a recreational room and a gym for the Richmond campus.

During a strategic planning session in 2003, plans were developed to expand foster care services into surrounding counties. The purpose was to provide foster families in outlying areas with services closer to home. The first expansion occurred in 2004 with the opening of a satellite office in Angleton, Texas.



*The Kezia DePelchin Award was established in 1998 as a way of honoring individuals for outstanding service to children and families. President and Mrs. George H. W. Bush (left) were honored as the first recipients of the award on May 1, 1998. Subsequent honorees included Mrs. Rosalynn Carter (center), former First-Lady of the United States, author and mental health advocate; and Dr. T. Brazelton (below), renowned pediatrician, researcher and media personality.*



## *A New One Begins*

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In 2003, DePelchin became a member of the National Child Traumatic Stress Network, funded by the US Department of Health and Human Services, to deliver services to traumatized children in the Houston area. In 2005, this affiliation proved invaluable as Hurricanes Katrina and Rita forced thousands of evacuees to flee to greater Houston. DePelchin worked in shelters, schools, churches and throughout the community to help children and families cope with traumatic stress caused by the disastrous events.

In 2005, the Texas Legislature passed a bill calling for the privatization of child welfare services, a measure that turns over the management of all adoption and foster care services to private agencies, like DePelchin. Although the Houston area will not see substantial change in child welfare as a result of this legislation until the end of the decade, the foster care services have grown significantly.

In 2006, DePelchin reestablished an affiliation with Baylor College of Medicine, Menninger Department of Psychiatry to provide training to the college's psychiatry residents. DePelchin Psychiatric Services, a separate organization, was established to hire child psychiatrists and expand availability of their services to the agency's clients.

*With more than a century of caring under our belts, experience has taught us many things. We've learned what works and what does not. We know that change and growth are a necessary but challenging part of our work. And we know that the spirit of caring and faith that carried Kezia Payne DePelchin and her supporters through some of history's most difficult times will continue to motivate us as we tackle society's problems, remaining always committed to our nation's most important assets—our children and our families.*

# University Charter School Graduates First Student



*Just over a year ago, Brice Abraham was one of more than 19,000 youth living in foster care in Texas. His chances for graduating high school seemed slim, but his own determination, coupled with the help of many dedicated DePelchin employees, helped him earn his diploma to become the first graduate of DePelchin's University Charter School. For Brice, who first entered the foster care system as an infant, the school was a saving grace.*

**University Charter School**, which opened in 2003, is a collaboration of DePelchin and the University of Texas at Austin. Located at the agency's Memorial and Richmond campuses, the school serves clients of DePelchin's Residential Treatment Centers. It is accredited by the Texas Education Agency and operates according to the state's highest educational standards. Moreover, its curriculum integrates critical therapeutic services that address the unique social, educational and mental health needs of foster youth like

Brice, whose serious behavioral and emotional difficulties impede the learning process.

The school specializes in helping youth learn and succeed academically, despite their troubled backgrounds. Most have experienced severe traumatic events, including homelessness, family violence, drug and alcohol addiction, abuse and neglect—all factors that damage a child's mental and emotional health and cause major obstacles to education.

By the time Brice was placed in DePelchin’s care in 2005, a turbulent upbringing, fueled by years of physical and emotional abuse, had taken its toll. “I was on the verge of homelessness and very depressed—even suicidal,” he recalled. “It was even hard for me to speak.”

Fortunately, Brice found his voice again at DePelchin’s Isabel Elkins Residential Treatment Center (RTC), an intensive residential program for youth with conditions so severe that outpatient or day treatment programs are inadequate.

Gradually, Brice became accustomed to the structure the RTC provided and began to respond to the individualized therapy and treatment approaches used by clinicians and staff. Before long, he felt safe enough and well enough to begin imagining a brighter future for himself—one that included education, independence and a career.

Brice knew, however, that imagining a future and making it a reality were two different things. He was very close to “aging out” of the foster care system—a term used to describe the time when foster youth reach 18 years of age and can no longer be cared for by the state. Brice’s hardships had caused him to fall so far behind academically that it seemed unlikely he could earn the many credits he lacked and also pass the state-mandated TAKS (Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills) test, a requirement for graduation. But he did.

“Brice really beat the odds,” said Dawn Lane, a DePelchin therapist who worked with him at the RTC. “Even though he had numerous issues to overcome, he knew what he had to do to get better. He did those things, and he never gave up.”

On December 19, 2006, Brice donned his cap and gown and triumphantly received his high school diploma, becoming the first graduate of University Charter School at DePelchin Children’s Center.

“It was a very proud moment for me,” Brice said. “I guess it shows that no matter what kind of experiences a person goes through, you can overcome it and still meet your goals.”

Brice continues on his goal-meeting track. He plans to start junior college soon and is searching for a part-time job. Meanwhile, he keeps busy by writing songs. With more than 150 in his collection, Brice does not limit himself to just one genre—he enjoys country, rap, gospel and a host of others.

“My music is my way of expressing myself,” he said. “It’s a positive way for me to reach people who might be going through the same thing. I hope my songs can bring happiness to others.”

John Merriwether, a retired principal with more than 20 years of administrative experience, is the school’s administrator. He works hard to ensure that students’ educational needs are met and that all possible resources are available to the school. “Graduating our first student was a momentous occasion,” Mr. Merriwether said. “Brice was a role model for our students and an example of what can be accomplished with hard work, determination and the support of caring adults. We look forward to further enhancing our program and ensuring that our students receive the best education possible in a nurturing and therapeutic environment. They deserve nothing less.”

### **More about University Charter School**

DePelchin’s University Charter School has a maximum ratio of one teacher for every 10 students. The school serves students ages 5 to 17. Its faculty—or treatment team—is comprised of certified teachers, aides, a registrar, a psychologist and youth workers. Students attend school seven hours daily, with a typical school day consisting of four hours of classroom instruction, two group therapy sessions and physical education. Depending on individual needs, a student’s schedule may also include family and individual therapy sessions. The length of time a student attends the school varies and is dependent on individual needs and improvement.

## Board Member Works to Further DePelchin's Community Connection

**Keeping Houstonians informed** about happenings in their community is Henry Florsheim's chosen profession. But making families aware of the services DePelchin provides is one of his passions.

Henry Florsheim, president and general manager of KTRK-TV Channel 13, is a valued member of DePelchin's board and current chair of its marketing committee. When Mr. Florsheim joined the board three years ago, he brought with him more than 25 years of news experience, as well as an enthusiastic commitment to further the agency's marketing and awareness campaign.

"I have always been impressed by the professionalism and dedication of DePelchin's leadership and staff," Mr. Florsheim said. "They are people who truly do their best to do what is right for children and families by providing needed services of the highest quality. It's very rewarding to be involved with something so meaningful."

Mr. Florsheim feels that the agency does an excellent job of anticipating the community's needs and then works to meet those needs, no matter the challenges. "The climate is changing, and ours and other agencies will continue to face hurdles with funding and resources, but DePelchin has tackled these obstacles for years and has persevered and will continue to do so."

As the parent of two teenagers, Mr. Florsheim empathizes with the many challenges faced by today's families. He agrees with DePelchin's philosophy that there is no one program that can effectively solve all of the community's problems. Staying connected to the community is key, he says, to identifying and meeting needs as they arise.

"When Hurricanes Katrina and Rita struck in 2005, DePelchin was one of the first to address the issue of childhood trauma," he recalled. "Our clinicians were on the spot, in the schools and in the community, prepared to address those issues and help. Being proactive allowed us to react quickly and appropriately in that situation. Our staff are leaders and experts in their field and it is only right that we aggressively market them as such."



*Henry Florsheim  
DePelchin Board Member*

A leader in his own field, Mr. Florsheim came to Houston with his wife Doe and daughters Alexandra and Sydney, a decade ago. Prior to the move, the family resided in New York, where Mr. Florsheim was born, lived and worked for much of his life. A graduate of Brown University, he began his career in 1972 as a desk assistant and news writer. During his new career he worked as a managing editor, news producer and news director in New York and other cities before tackling the responsibilities of general manager in 1997 at Houston's Channel 13.

Mr. Florsheim helped spearhead the station's collaboration with DePelchin, Houston Independent School District and Connect with Kids Network to co-sponsor Connecting with Kids, a community-based awareness initiative and award winning TV series offering a comprehensive look at critical issues facing today's youth, families and educators.



# Welcome, New Board Members!

## **Karey Dubiel Dye**

*Vice President, Investment Management Division  
Goldman, Sachs & Co.*

Ms. Dye advises clients on estate and gift planning and family wealth transfer matters, while also assisting donors with developing efficient charitable giving strategies. She holds a law degree from the University of Virginia and has been a resident of Houston for 30 years. She and her husband Phillip have two daughters.

## **Stephen M. Fraga**

*President, Tejas Office Products Inc.*

An active member of the community, Mr. Fraga is involved with several local organizations, including the Houston Minority Business Council, Houston Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Holocaust Museum Houston, Center for Houston's Future, Strake Jesuit College Preparatory School and Family Services of Greater Houston. He is a graduate of Texas A&M University, and is married to Michelle Martinez.

## **Rev. B. Massey Gentry**

*Vice-Rector, St. Martin's Episcopal Church*

Rev. Gentry is a graduate of Birmingham-Southern College and also holds degrees from the Chicago Theological Seminary and the School of Theology of the University of the South. He served for eight years as a cleric and college chaplain with The Methodist Church before his 1978 ordination in The Episcopal Church. He and his wife Jan have four children and two grandchildren.

## **John S. Moody Jr.**

*General Counsel  
Moody Rambin Property Company*

Mr. Moody serves as general counsel for a Houston-based real estate development company. He earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in U.S. History from Vanderbilt University, a Masters of Business Administration and a law degree from University of Houston. He and his wife Rachel have one child.

## **Roxann S. Neumann**

*Vice President of Corporate Affairs, Silver Eagle Distributors, LP*

Ms. Neumann, a returning DePelchin Board member, also serves on the boards of Catholic Charities and Theatre Under the Stars. She is a native Texan who graduated from The University of Texas at Austin and the South Texas College of Law. She and her husband Tim have one daughter.

## **Janeana White, M.D.**

*Assistant Professor, Division of General Internal Medicine, The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston*

Dr. White also serves as medical director of K.I.N.D.E.Rx Clinic, is a graduate of Wayne State University School of Medicine, Dr. White also volunteers with The Council on Alcohol and Drugs Houston and serves on the boards of The Texas Medical Center Women's Health Network and Waymaker Life Strategies, Inc.



## **DePelchin's 2007 Board of Directors**

*Front row (l-r): Roxann Neumann, Don Woo, Debbi Johnstone, Janeana White MD, Pamela Lovett, Stephen Dyer, Stephen Fraga and Thomas Bellows*

*Middle row (l-r): Susan Distefano, Miles Harper III, Geraldina Interiano Wise, Nancy Kinder, Pat Powers, Leslie Prokop Teel, Kathy Flanagan MD and Nancy Cook PhD*

*Back row (l-r): Henry Florsheim, Laurie Dorfman, Carolyn Pope, Ellie Sweeney, Anne Duncan, Jay Allen Chaffee, Charles Powell, Curtis Mooney PhD, H. Richard Walton, John Moody Jr., and Frank Wozencraft Jr.*

*Not pictured: M. James Henderson, John Bass, Valerie Bergeron, Efrain Bleiberg MD, Karen Dubiel Dye; Flo McGee, Rev. B. Massey Gentry, Leslie Sprague, Harper Trammell and Tandelyn Atkinson Weaver*

## *Carol Bevan* Most Valuable Volunteer



**DePelchin Children's Center** is pleased to recognize Carol Bevan as this quarter's Most Valuable Volunteer (MVV). Ms. Bevan serves as an administrative volunteer for the Records Management department, where she spends each Friday morning filing, labeling and providing helpful administrative support to the staff.

"Carol is extraordinary," said Cozettee Thomas, Manager of Records Management. "She is a full-time student with a part-time job, yet she reports to our department at the same time every Friday, ready and willing to do whatever is needed. She is a valuable part of our team."

Ms. Bevan is equally complimentary of the qualities she observes among the DePelchin staff. "The employees are involved and dedicated," she said. "I also admire the agency's ability to provide such extensive services."

Ms. Bevan is employed as a pre-loader at UPS. She also attends the University of Houston and is pursuing a degree in anthropology with a minor in biology. She hopes to eventually attend medical school. Ms. Bevan also volunteers at Houston Hospice, and in her free time enjoys Muay Thai kickboxing, lifting weights, reading and spending time with her family, friends and pets.

## Bobbie and John Nau Honored at Spring Luncheon



John and Bobbie Nau

**Bobbie and John** Nau's commitment to service is apparent through their broad participation in civic, community and philanthropic endeavors. The couple's involvement with DePelchin began as supporters of the Building a Brighter Future Capital Campaign, a \$15 million dollar effort to fund the construction of a new program services building and enhancements to other agency facilities. Their financial gift to the campaign was only the beginning of many more invaluable contributions.

As owners of Silver Eagle Distributors, one of the nation's largest distributors of Anheuser-Busch products, they are deeply rooted in Houston's business community, employing more than 700 people at four locations in Houston and surrounding areas.

Impressed by the wealth of services DePelchin provides to children and families from all walks of life, Mrs. Nau joined the board of directors in 2003. Working alongside her husband at Silver Eagle has given Mrs. Nau a unique understanding of Houston's diverse community. One of her duties includes managing the company's

philanthropic contributions. That experience, she says, has given her valuable insight into community needs.

"DePelchin made me aware of how many children are lost in the system and how difficult it is to reach all of them," Mrs. Nau said. "When I joined the board, my goal was to be as helpful as I possibly could, "I came to the table with no experience in social services, but I did know a lot about business and the people of Houston, so I was able to approach issues with a consumer's eye."

John Nau is proud of his wife's commitment to an agency that has benefited the community for so many years. In addition to serving as president and CEO of Silver Eagle, Mr. Nau is a dedicated preservationist and long-time community volunteer. In 2001, President George W. Bush appointed him to a four-year term as Chairman of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

"DePelchin's long history of service in Houston is remarkable," Mr. Nau said. "It's obvious that today's leaders not only remember the agency's rich

history, they are intent on preserving the core values that have been the foundation of its success for 115 years. This is preservation at its best."

"In short, Bobbie and John Nau embody the energy, care and civic commitment that are hallmarks of DePelchin Children's Center," said Curtis C. Mooney, president and CEO of DePelchin Children's Center. "It is our privilege and our pleasure to honor them as volunteer leaders and thank them for their ongoing generosity and support on behalf of our community's children and families."

### Bob Danzig speaks at annual luncheon

DePelchin's 2007 Spring Luncheon, honoring Bobbie and John Nau, was held March 29 at the Hilton Americas-Houston. Guest speaker for the event was Bob Danzig (left), former CEO of the Hearst Newspaper Group, motivational speaker, author and a former foster child.

DePelchin thanks event chair, Pat Powers; Steering Committee members, Philamena and Arthur Baird, Sheryl and Doug Beck, Laurie and Dr. Scott Dorfman, Louana and Ted Frois, Mary Chavanne and Dick Martin, Tom Powers, Ellie and Jack Sweeney; and underwriting chair, R. Bruce Laboon.



# ABOVE AND BEYOND ABCD THE CALL OF DUTY

*DePelchin's A-B-C-D Award, (Above and Beyond the Call of duty) honors employees who excel in their jobs by putting forth extra effort for the agency and those it serves.*



**Gerardo Alfaro**  
January 2007 Honoree

Mr. Alfaro, a youth worker with the Isabel Elkins Residential Treatment Center, brings consistent structure to the unit, say his co-workers. The children benefit from his compassionate, yet strong, calm demeanor. He is a role model, particularly for the older boys, who look forward to seeing him on a daily basis.

**Debbie Arnold**  
February 2007 Honoree

A Program Coordinator with the Family Connections program, Ms. Arnold is described by her staff as “hands on” and “an outstanding supervisor.” She sets and maintains high standards of excellence and has a contagious dedication to the program, they say.



**Susan Zaid**  
December 2006 Honoree

As an evaluator with Research and Grants Management, Ms. Zaid is revered for her hard work and ability to complete research quickly and efficiently. DePelchin clinicians appreciate her diligence and the quality of her research, which allows them to more effectively serve the agency’s clients.



**Erin Heflin**  
March 2007 Honoree

DePelchin’s foster parents have an excellent recruiter/trainer in Erin Heflin, according to those who work with her. Ms. Heflin is known for producing the highest quality outcomes while going out of her way to provide foster parents with the tools they need to succeed.

# Inaugural **Texas Bowl** Boosts Community **Awareness** of **DePelchin**



**DePelchin Children's Center** was the official charity beneficiary of the inaugural Texas Bowl, held Dec. 28 at Reliant Stadium. The battle between Kansas State University and Rutgers University, drew more than 52,000 fans to make it the largest bowl game in Reliant Stadium history. Although the scoreboard confirmed a 37 to 10 win by Rutgers, DePelchin Children's Center, as well as the entire Houston community, emerged victorious.

As the charitable beneficiary of the first annual Texas Bowl, DePelchin received a monetary contribution in addition to invaluable public exposure through media promotion of the game and a weeklong series of events, including special luncheons and receptions. Game Week also featured guest appearances by the players of both teams at events throughout Houston, including a special visit with DePelchin children the day before the game.

"We extend our sincere thanks to the organizers and supporters of Texas Bowl 2006," said Ron McDaniel, Vice President of Marketing at DePelchin. "The event was well attended, well organized and a great victory for DePelchin and for the City of Houston. Opportunities like this substantially enhance community awareness of DePelchin, and we are proud to have been chosen as the charitable beneficiary of this inaugural event."

DePelchin gratefully acknowledges the foundations, corporations, civic and religious organization and individuals whose generosity allows us to provide quality services for children and families. We thank the following contributors who gave gifts of \$100 or more between October 7, 2006 and January 15, 2007.

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## Shelley Gale Terry 1964-2006



**DePelchin mourns the loss** of a dedicated volunteer, Shelley Gale Terry, who passed away December 29, 2006 following a brief illness. Ms. Terry loved people and was involved with several humanitarian organizations, including DePelchin, where she helped launch the agency's Reading Nook program. Reading Nook volunteers read to children in the lobby as they await services. Ms. Terry also volunteered assisting staff with mailings and administrative tasks.

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## The Joy of Giving

Houstonians showed their generosity last holiday season by taking part in DePelchin's annual Holiday Project. Individuals, families, companies and community organizations donated funds, gifts and hundreds of volunteer hours to help ensure a happy holiday season for more than 1,300 children. More than 5,000 donations kept volunteers busy filling wish lists and stocking the Donation Center shelves. DePelchin is grateful to all who made the 2006 Holiday Project a success.

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The Kezia DePelchin Society has been established to advance and strengthen programs designed to help children and families in crisis by encouraging and recognizing significant annual giving to DePelchin Children's Center. With a minimum gift of \$1,250, you can become a member of the Society and join a family of individuals who want to make an investment in the future of Houston are children and families.

The Board and staff of DePelchin Children's Center gratefully acknowledge the current members of the Kezia DePelchin Society.

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