



# 2013 Annual Report and 2014 Spring Newsletter



## JUST A LOOK OUT THE WINDOW

Just a look out the window. Our life began with just a look out the window. As my husband and I stood there in our dining room looking for a car to pull up bringing the answer to so many prayers, we couldn't help but hold our breath. What a journey we had already been on to get to this point. We expanded our hearts from our initial wish of adopting just one little boy toddler, to now fostering to adopt not just three children, but two boys and a baby girl.

The phone call from Spaulding for Children had come four days earlier, but it wasn't until we saw those three beautiful children get out of that little red car that we breathed our true first breath. We were parents. On paper of course, we were only foster parents, taking in children who needed a safe place to live, but the first time we held our children we knew God had brought them home to us and we were to be a family.

Over the course of the next year we walked the journey of going from foster parents to adoptive ones. The ups and downs. The struggles and victories. The rollercoaster of emotions that come along with it. Of course, during the course of that year we also walked the journey of watching our children grow and change and the overwhelmingly heart filling emotions that come along with that. It's hard to believe that the three children that stand before us today were just a little over a year ago born addicted, neglected, starving, and hurting. They are beautiful, smart, loving, healthy, and thriving children who have the brightest futures ahead of them.



*"It's hard to believe that the three children that stand before us today were just a little over a year ago born addicted, neglected, starving, and hurting."*

In May we became a legal family and the children took our name. What a glorious day! We look at our children and feel so full of love and joy. They are our heart and life's breath. Adopting our children, completing not only our family but our lives, was the best thing we have ever done, and the biggest blessing we have ever received. Thanks to Spaulding, for Children we are a forever family. We are forever grateful.

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## A Letter From the Chair



The sun has been coming out, flowers are in bloom and the weather has slowly (but surely) gotten warmer. Spring is officially here and it's a time for renewal and new beginnings. When I look at Spaulding for Children, I am always awed and humbled by how many new beginnings we have been fortunate to create.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all of the individuals, churches, corporations, and foundations that supported Spaulding for Children in 2013. Together we have much to celebrate, as Spaulding for Children looks forward to finalizing our 2,000<sup>th</sup> adoption! After 37 years, our Foster Care, Special Needs Adoption, and Post Adoption programs remain strong, and through the continued commitment of the staff, the Board of Directors and our many supporters, these vital programs continue to play a key role in ensuring special needs children have a chance at a better tomorrow.

However, the work is not done yet. Despite the hard efforts of so many people at the local and state level to make changes and create a better reality for these children, there is still much to be done. As I look to 2014 and beyond, I know there are still over 6,500 children currently available for adoption and waiting for their forever home in our great State of Texas, with close to 2,000 of those children residing right here in the Greater Houston area. The numbers may seem overwhelming, but together we can change lives and find loving forever homes for all of the children who need and deserve one.

I ask you to look in your heart and find out if you or someone you know will open their heart and home to foster or adopt a child, or support us in doing so. Giving a child love, stability, and a place to call home is one of the most rewarding things you can do in life.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Seo'.

John Seo  
Board Chair, Spaulding for Children

# THE LEDEZMA FAMILY



We were told I was unable to have children. We thought very long and hard about adoption, and a friend recommended we connect with Spaulding for Children. So, I picked up the phone one day and made an appointment for a visit.

I always knew that one day I would want to have a family. As anyone, I would think that when I got ready to begin my family, it would just happen. It did not end up that way. My husband and I tried for approximately five years.



**Spaulding for Children was the best decision we made, and I was truly blessed with a beautiful family.** We will always be thankful for this agency and the extended family they have become to us.

Through our journey we ended up with, not one, but two beautiful girls placed with us! But life sure does have an interesting way of working. During the process of going through trainings and trying to finalize the adoptions, we became pregnant with a handsome son! I must say our family is truly complete.



# IRIS ROBINSON: A CELEBRATION OF LIFE



Former Board Member and long-time friend of Spaulding for Children, Iris Robinson, passed away in March. Iris had a passion for the profession of law and helping people of all walks of life. She graduated from the South Texas School of Law in 1967 and was one of the early pioneers of women lawyers in Houston. She worked for many years as a successful attorney in the Greater Houston area and also loved to travel and entertain. Iris served as a Spaulding for Children volunteer for more than 15 years as a Board Member and as a loyal supporter. Iris left a lasting legacy at Spaulding for Children and will be remembered fondly.



# IT'S A FACT:

Spaulding for Children recruits, trains, ma



Event Chair, Mickey O'Neal and teammates

## ST. PATRICK'S DAY GOLF TOURNAMENT

The luck of the Irish was with the golfers who played in Spaulding for Children's inaugural St. Patrick's Day Golf Tournament. The sun was out and the air was crisp as players assembled for the shotgun start at Wildcat Golf Club to support and raise funds for Spaulding for Children.

Teams concluded their day with a dinner and award ceremony with special acknowledgements from Event Chair and Spaulding for Children Board Members, Mickey O'Neal, Mark Brewer, and Roy Wallace.

A special thank you to presenting sponsors L.L. Bradford and the Johnson Family Foundation for their generous support. The remaining sponsors played a significant role in making the event possible, and enables us to raise nearly \$25,000 for Spaulding for Children's program services that help children and families.



Team Spaulding for Children readying the silent auction

Congratulations to the winners:

1st Place:	Team REW Group, LLC
2nd Place:	Team Mark Brewer
3rd Place:	Team Crystal & Co.

Longest Drive:	Marc Toomey
Closest to the Pin:	Mike Cogill
Putting Contest:	Mark Brewer



Getting that perfect shot



# 2013 PROGRAM OUTCOMES



## Foster Care

Spaulding for Children's Foster Care program supports the agency's mission by providing foster homes for children currently in the custody of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) who have endured the trauma of abuse, neglect, or abandonment. In 2013, Spaulding for Children:

- Provided **21,120** days of care for 120 children in the Greater Houston area
- Facilitated the adoption of **23 children** who were adopted by their foster parents
- Maintained placement for **100% of foster children** with their foster parents until discharged through adoption or other type of planned move

### FOSTER CARE:

The largest placement was 4 children  
 The oldest child was 15 years old  
 The youngest child was 3 days old

## Special Needs Adoption

Adoption services are provided through Spaulding for Children's Houston and South Texas offices which serve 32 counties in Texas. The Special Needs Adoption Program consists of several components: recruitment, training, placement, and finalization. These services are offered free of charge to families, eliminating significant financial barriers for prospective adoptive parents. In 2013 the Special Needs Adoption Program:

- Placed **69 children** in permanent families
- Finalized **68 adoptions** where children officially became part of their forever families
- Maintained a superior success rate in which **95%** of adoptive placements become finalized adoptions

### ADOPTION:

The largest placement was 5 children  
 The oldest child was 17 years old  
 The youngest child was 12 months

## Post Adoption

Post Adoption services are provided through Houston and South Texas. Spaulding for Children's Post Adoption Program began in 1990 for the purpose of providing on-going support services designed to resolve adoption issues and strengthen family functioning to increase the quality of life for children and the families who adopted them from DFPS. The program is designed to protect, strengthen and preserve the new families with ongoing resources so that they may remain intact. In 2013, the Post Adoption Program:

- Provided post adoption services to **418 children**
- Provided **2,983 hours** of case management services
- Provided therapy and respite services enabling **98%** of the **418 children** served by the Post Adoption program to remain with their adopted families

## 2013 REVENUE AND EXPENSES - AUDITED

### Revenue

Government Service Fees	\$1,548,630
Contributions	638,483
United Way	235,443
Investment Income/Other	39,541
Program Service Fees	27,827
<b>Total Support and Revenue</b>	<b>\$2,489,924</b>

### Expenses

Foster Care	\$1,065,006
Post Adoption	\$680,034
Adoption	\$490,406
Management and General Costs	\$190,030
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$2,425,476</b>

# FINDING THEIR FOREVER HOME

The children pictured below have been in the foster care system for some time and need to find a loving family to call their own. Spaulding for Children partners with organizations like the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption to find permanent adoptive homes for special needs children. Special needs is defined as children who are older than age 8, sibling groups, and children who have been available for adoption for a long period of time.

For more information on these children and how you can become their forever family, please contact Staci Prince at 713. 681.6991 ext. 169



## Kyla - Age 7

Kyla is a very sweet and loving girl. She loves sitting in your lap and smiling and laughing out loud. She enjoys school and is very excited when the school bus arrives to pick her up.

Kyla has been diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy and receives occupational therapy, physical therapy, and speech therapy. In spite of her medical conditions, she continues to be a loving child and thrives on social interactions and being showered with love. Kyla expresses her feelings through voice and recognizes familiar voices and lights up when she hears them around her. Kyla loves to listen to music and playing with an iPad.

## Bryanna - Age 14 Christopher - Age 8

Bryanna and Christopher share a strong bond and are very attached to each other. Christopher looks up to his older sister, whom has a motherly spirit towards him. He seems to be very proud of his big sister because he tells people how great she is at things like dancing or singing. These siblings enjoy spending time together and like playing board games, watching TV, and playing video games.

Bryanna is a very polite, easy-going young lady. Although she is very sociable, she can be a little shy when you first meet her. Bryanna would like to participate in track in school and plans to do so this upcoming school year. She loves to sing and is currently in her school and church choirs. Her favorite subjects are science and P.E. and she plans on attending college to become a chef. She also enjoys drawing and painting.

Christopher is a an active little boy. He loves being outside playing any sport including soccer, t-ball, and basketball. Christopher loves to run and he has recently taken an interest in track, just like his sister.



LISTED BELOW ARE THE NAMES OF THE FOUNDATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS, CORPORATIONS, AND INDIVIDUALS WHOSE SUPPORT IN 2013 MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR SPAULDING FOR CHILDREN TO BE ABLE TO PROVIDE MANY SERVICES TO CHILDREN IN NEED THROUGH ITS FOSTER CARE, ADOPTION, AND POST ADOPTION PROGRAMS. YOUR CONTINUOUS SUPPORT HAS CHANGED THE LIVES OF SO MANY CHILDREN.

Thank you for your generous support. Figures shown reflect contributions made between January 1 and December 31, 2013. Please contact the Development Office at 713.681.6991 to note any errors or omissions.

## FOUNDATIONS

### **\$50,000 AND ABOVE**

Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption

### **\$25,000 TO \$49,999**

The Clayton Fund, Inc

### **\$10,000 TO \$24,999**

George and Mary Josephine Hamman Foundation  
John G. and Marie Stella Kenedy Memorial Foundation  
John P. McGovern Foundation  
Valero Energy Foundation

### **\$5,000 TO \$9,999**

Harry S. and Isabel C. Cameron Foundation  
Albert and Ethel Herzstein Charitable Foundation  
Houston Texans Foundation  
Strake Foundation  
The Trull Foundation

### **UP TO \$4,999**

Aetna Foundation  
Andrews Foundation  
Behmann Brothers Foundation  
Coastal Bend Community Foundation  
Fort Bend Cares Foundation  
Jerry and Nanette Finger Foundation  
The Larry and Pat McNeil Foundation  
Order of the Eastern Star - Bellaire Chapter #1021  
Robert W. and Pearl Wallis Knox Charitable Foundation

## ORGANIZATIONS

### **\$20,000 AND ABOVE**

Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church

### **\$1,000 TO \$9,999**

Chapelwood United Methodist Church  
First Colony Church of Christ  
Missouri Street Church of Christ  
St. John the Divine Episcopal Church

## CORPORATIONS

### **\$5,000 AND ABOVE**

Amegy Bank of Texas  
Kayne Anderson  
The Loken Group  
Noble Energy, Inc.  
Renaissance Offshore

### **\$1,000 TO \$4,999**

Arch Coal, Inc.  
BB&T  
Bellar Pools  
Capital One Securities  
Copperfield Racquet and Fitness Club  
Ferguson Enterprises, Inc.  
Freeway Properties  
Gainer Donnelly  
Integrated Geophysics Corporation  
Mason Road Sheet Metal, Inc.  
Mutual of Omaha  
Opportune LLP  
Quadvest

REW Group, LLC  
Scotiabank  
Spark Energy  
Spectra Energy  
TDIndustries  
W&T Offshore

### **UP TO \$999**

Apache Corporation  
Capital Bank of Texas  
County of Nueces  
Crutchfield Financial, LLC  
EP Energy  
Infinity Construction Services  
Legend Oaks West Houston  
Lynn Kiecke Lackey & Eason Insurance Group  
Mesah Commissioning, Inc.  
Moritz & Associates  
Mutual of Omaha, Wealth Management  
Veracity Consulting  
Vicon Equipment, Inc.

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### FAVORITE AUNTS AND UNCLAS

Favorite Aunts and Uncles are individuals whose gifts to Spaulding for Children totaled \$1,000 or more in 2013

#### **\$5,000 AND ABOVE**

Ken and Vikki Finley  
Jenny and John Seo

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Members of the Cousins Club contributed \$250 to \$999 in 2013.

#### **\$250 to \$999**

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Mr. Chris Miller and

Ms. Rhonda Underwood

**Mickey O'Neal**

Mr. Richard Walton

## GIFTS IN-KIND

Aerodrome Ice Skating Complex  
Aggie Angels  
The Alley Theatre  
Ms. Flora Antweil  
Aquene Salon  
Avante Medispa  
Bags and More  
Bayou Wildlife Park  
Benjy's Modern American Cuisine  
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Berube  
Black-Eyed Pea Restaurant  
BMW of Houston North  
Ms. Nancy Bond  
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Brewer  
Carmelo's Italian Restaurant  
Carter's Pet Depot  
Central Market  
Ms. Rachel Champagne  
Chapelwood United Methodist Church  
Chick-Fil-A  
Children's Museum of Houston  
Chobani Yogurt  
Christiane Coiffure  
Comedy Sportz  
Contemporary Arts Museum Houston  
D&D Feed Supply  
Disneyland  
Doubletree Hotel Houston  
Downtown  
The Ensemble Theatre  
Fairbanks Liquor  
Foundry United Methodist Church  
George Ranch Historical Park  
Ms. Kasi Greathouse  
Green Mountain Coffee  
Guadalajara Hacienda  
Mr. and Mrs. Tom Habermas  
Hal Martin's Watch & Jewelry Company  
Ms. Mary Hamala  
Ms. Lisa Herbert  
Houston Astros Baseball Club

Houston Dynamo  
The Houston Fire Museum  
The Houstonian Hotel, Club & Spa  
Huber Tennis Ranch  
J Sussan Interiors  
Ms. Denise Jungels  
Karbach Brewing Company  
The Kirby Mansion  
KPMG, LLP  
Kroger  
Mr. and Mrs. Tim Lang  
Le Amiche Club  
Mr. and Mrs. Ledezma  
Marvelis Leon  
Medieval Times  
Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church  
Mountasia Family Fun Center  
Museum of Fine Arts, Houston  
Niko Niko's  
Oil & Vinegar  
Olive and Vine  
Otter Box  
Pabst Brewing Co.  
Panera Bread  
Pete's Dueling Piano Bar  
Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Petrovich  
Mr. Gregory Presswood  
RDG/Bar Annie  
Mr. and Mrs. Martees Robinson  
Rooms To Go  
Ross  
Rudy's Country Store & BBQ  
Sandra Blaze Dance Troop  
Sensia Studio & Japanese Day Spa  
Silver Eagle Distributors  
Southwest Airlines  
St. Francis Episcopal Day School  
St. Luke's United Methodist Church  
Stogies World Class Cigars  
Studio One to One  
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Texas Renaissance Festival  
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Theatre Under the Stars  
Utopia Day Spa  
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Mr. and Mrs. James Yates





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Spaulding for Children is funded by private donations, the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, and the United Way of Greater Houston.

## Graduation Celebration!

Spaulding for Children is proud to announce the 2014 graduation of one of our adoptees, Erica Buentello, from the VAST Academy at Houston Community College.

Erica is a single mom of three-year-old Amanda, and also works while attending school. She plans to continue to further her education.

Erica is challenged by a severe form of dyslexia so her work at HCC and her graduation are particularly meaningful to her and her family. Way to go, Erica! We are so proud of you!



SPAULDING FOR CHILDREN IS ONE OF THE OFFICIAL CHARITIES OF THE 2015 CHEVRON HOUSTON MARATHON!



Skip the lottery and help us reach our goal of \$20,000 by signing up to run for Spaulding for Children in the Run for a Reason program! Entries will be available beginning June 4, 2014.

For more information contact Martha Chavez at 713.681.6991 ext. 128