



Spaulding
for Children

2014 FALL NEWSLETTER

WORTH THE WAIT

After a few years of marriage, Misty and Kenneth Wethington wanted to start a family of their own. They have a special connection to adoption and knew they wanted to adopt after learning they couldn't have children. "My husband's grandmother was adopted, and she always spoke of how much love she received and the sense of family and belonging," said Misty. They wanted to provide that same feeling to a child waiting for a family to call their own. Their journey was slightly longer than anticipated, but with support and patience, one that came together beautifully.



In December of 2013, a little over three years after starting their adoption journey, Misty and Kenneth received a phone call from CPS in Lubbock. At the recommendation of their Spaulding for Children case manager, Jo Chevalier, the couple was being considered for adoptive placement with a 3-year-old boy named Matthew.



In January, Misty and Kenneth got on the road to Lubbock for a meeting that would change their lives. Misty remembers vividly, "The door opened and this beautiful little boy ran straight to Kenneth giving him the biggest hug, saying 'Daddy! Daddy!' That was it: we fell completely in love with him and knew he was meant to be our son." A week later Matthew went home with the couple, and this August they officially became a forever family.

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"The kindness, perseverance and support that Jo and the rest of the Spaulding for Children staff showed us was very comforting and reassuring," says Misty. "If I can tell anyone anything about this experience, it would be that it is worth the wait. Matthew has made our lives so fulfilling and joyful." The Wethingtons are excited to see what the future holds, but most importantly, they're looking forward to experiencing it together as a forever family.

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A LETTER FROM THE CHAIR



The term 'forever families' is the driving force behind Spaulding for Children. I'm honored to be part of an organization that is committed to finding permanent adoptive families for the over 6,000 children in the State of Texas who are looking for a loving forever family. These children have been removed from their birth homes due to abuse, neglect, or abandonment and need a family to call their own. Finding homes for these special children is not always easy, but the commitment of the team at Spaulding for Children to place these children in the right homes is second to none.

What we share in this newsletter just scratches the surface of the many amazing stories that have been enabled through your support and shared belief in our mission, to provide children in need of a loving home with the joy of having one. We are proud and humbled to be involved with families, community partners, and individuals like you that help make it possible to give children in need a second chance through adoption.

We are now moving closer to an important milestone in Spaulding for Children's history, our 2,000th adoption! However, we cannot forget that there are over 2,000 children in the Greater Houston area today still waiting for their forever family. I know this number may seem daunting, but together we can find a family for every child who needs one!

As we close 2014, I want to thank you all from the bottom of my heart for your continued support. We know the work Spaulding for Children does on behalf of abused and neglected children would not be possible without you, and for that we are so grateful.

I wish you all happiness and joy with your forever families, as we enter this holiday season.

With sincere gratitude,



John Seo
Board Chair, Spaulding for Children

Join Us!

Put on your best poker face and join us at our
All in for Adoption Texas Hold 'Em Tournament

Co-Chairs
Steve Kennedy
Brian Romere

When
Thursday, November 20, 2014

Where
River Oaks Country Club



ALL IN for
ADOPTION
TEXAS HOLD 'EM TOURNAMENT

For more information, please contact Annie Richardson at
713-681-6991 or arichardson@spauldingforchildren.org

COASTAL BEND DAY OF GIVING



Mark your calendars! The Coastal Bend Community Day of Giving is coming up on Tuesday, November 18, 2014! On this special day of giving, every dollar you donate will be matched by the generous donors of the Coastal Bend Community Foundation! Join us on this special day to help us reach our match goal of \$14,285!

How to participate: Between 12:00 a.m. and 11:59 p.m. on Tuesday, November 18, 2014, visit www.coastalbenddayofgiving.org and make your charitable contribution to Spaulding for Children.

How much should I give? Any amount helps and will be matched dollar for dollar! Your generous contribution will help ensure that Spaulding for Children can continue to help even more children who need access to life-changing adoption and post adoption services in the South Texas region.

SPECIAL DELIVERIES FOR SPECIAL KIDS!



Thank you to our friends at TDIndustries and Comcast Communications for stopping by our office to spread the love with incredible donations! TDIndustries brought bags upon bags brimming with adoption day gifts as Comcast brought boxes full of school supplies, like backpacks and notebooks, to get our kids ready for a great school year!

Thank you so much to both companies for their continuous generosity! Our children's lives are brighter because of you.









Spaulding for Children's BLIZZARD OF Giving

Spaulding for Children's annual Blizzard of Giving campaign provides holiday gifts to children in our foster care program. It also supports foster and adoptive children in times of crisis.

Help make over 100 of our foster and adoptive children's holiday wishes come true with gift cards and support. Make a contribution to Blizzard of Giving by check, gift cards, or online at www.spauldingforchildren.org



To ensure we provide gifts in time for the holidays, the deadline for contributions is
December 19, 2014.



Please mail or deliver donations and gift cards to:
Spaulding for Children
Attn: Blizzard of Giving
8582 Katy Freeway, Suite 100
Houston, TX 77024

Why gift cards and cash donations? They are easy for you to purchase and mail and easy for us to store. They also help ensure equity among the children we serve. Your gift card purchase or cash donation is tax-deductible.

RUN FOR A REASON



Runners! Didn't make it into the Chevron Houston Marathon lottery? Not to worry! Spaulding for Children is an official charity of the Chevron Houston Marathon, and we have bibs waiting for you for the January 18, 2015 races.

There are a couple of ways to secure a spot and help Spaulding for Children in our mission to provide children in need of a loving home with the joy of having one.

- **Fundraise for Registration:** With this option, runners commit to raising at least \$500 plus their registration fee (\$125 for the full marathon, \$115 for the half) by the November 24 registration deadline to secure their bib. Please contact Martha Chavez at 713-681-6991 or at mchavez@spauldingforchildren.org for a commitment form.



- **HERO:** Register for either the full or half marathon for a one-time \$350 donation plus registration fee (\$125 for the full marathon, \$115 for the half). To register for a HERO spot, head to www.chevronhoustonmarathon.com find the HERO Registration option and be sure to choose Spaulding for Children on the list of charities provided.

- **Not Running?** You can still help! Non-runners and friends alike can help us reach our fundraising goal by making donations to existing fundraiser pages or creating one themselves. Simply head to www.chevronhoustonmarathon.org and click on the "Run for a Reason" tab and click "Marathon Charities". Pick Spaulding for Children and click on "Become a Fundraiser" to create your page!



A HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

The children pictured below have been in the foster care system for eight years and need 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. These children are older than age 8, sibling groups, or children who have been available for adoption for a long period of time. For more information about these children and to find out how you can become their forever family, please contact Jessica Trapani at 713.681.6991 ext. 130 or jtrapani@spauldingforchildren.org.



Destanie - Age 11

Destanie is a very cute and lovable child. She constantly smiles and likes to give hugs. Diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder, she has recently been learning how to count and recite the alphabet. Destanie's two favorite things are receiving lots of hugs from her foster mom and putting ponytails in her hair. Destanie also likes swimming in the kiddie pool and playing in her backyard. Her foster parents take her and her sister Patricia on outings and they always have lots of fun.

Patricia - Age 9

Patricia is a very vibrant young girl who is very affectionate. She loves learning and reading, as well as playing outside with other children. Patricia loves her sister, Destanie. She is patient and understanding about some of the limitations surrounding Destanie's diagnosis and will often entertain herself and play alone. Along with her sister, Patricia enjoys swimming and the adventures she gets into in her backyard.



SPAULDING SPOTLIGHT



Congratulations to Foster Care Supervisor, Grace Farago, for celebrating 16 years at Spaulding for Children! As she prepares to retire at the end of 2014, we would like to thank Grace for her dedication and priceless contribution to not only Spaulding for Children, but for the 40 years of serving the child welfare system during her career! We will miss you, Grace!



We warmly wish the happiest of birthdays to Adoption Supervisor, Jo Chevalier! This year she celebrated a very special birthday and since she always puts a smile on our face, we wanted to make her smile. The Spaulding for Children staff surprised her by transforming her office into a purple balloon wonderland! Happy Birthday, Jo!



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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.

EASY WAYS TO HELP SPAULDING FOR CHILDREN



Kroger:

When you shop at Kroger you can help Spaulding for Children raise funds! Link your Kroger Plus card at www.krogercommunityrewards.com. Sign in or quickly create an account online and search for organization 80800! It's that easy!

Randalls Good Neighbor Program:

Link your Randalls Remarkable Card to Spaulding for Children, which is organization number 470, and Randalls will send a percentage of your purchases to Spaulding for Children. Please fill out the Randalls Good Neighbor Form, which can be found at <http://www.randalls.com/ShopStores/Good-Neighbor.page> and take it with you on your next visit.

Amazon:

Spaulding for Children is a participating charity of AmazonSmile. This is an easy way to designate a percentage of your purchase to go to Spaulding for Children!

Here is how it works:

- Head to <http://smile.amazon.com/>
- Sign in as you would on your regular account or create one if you don't already have one
- On your first visit to AmazonSmile, you will need to select Spaulding for Children to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. You can do that by clicking the link towards the top of the page that reads "Supporting"
- Search for Spaulding for Children (make sure you select the Houston location)
- That's it! After you choose Spaulding for Children, AmazonSmile will remember this as your preferred charity

Once you have linked the account, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases!