



2016 Fall Newsletter SpauldingforChildren.org

## **Scholarship Spotlight: Jamie Perello**

Through the David and Jacque Holland Scholarship Fund, Spaulding for Children offers scholarships to young adults who are presently in foster care through Spaulding for Children, were adopted through Christian Child Help Foundation's special needs adoption program, or through Spaulding for Children's special needs adoption program who are seeking higher education at a college, university or trade school.

**Jamie Perello** is one of this year's scholarship recipients. Currently a student at Kennesaw State University in Georgia, Jamie answered a few questions about her adoption journey and how this scholarship will help her obtain a degree. To learn more about Spaulding for Children's next scholarship application cycle, please contact Shelly Webster at 713.681.6991.

**Spaulding for Children (SFC):** Tell us a bit about your adoption journey!

**Jamie:** My adoption journey is simple in my eyes. **I grew up feeling loved.** My adoption was very openly communicated and my parents have always been supportive of that communication. My adoption is an amazing part of my story here on earth and has really helped me see and understand God's love for me.

**SFC:** What does adoption mean to you?

Jamie: Adoption is a very unique gift. It's sacrificial and it's servitude. Adoption is one of the greatest gifts I have ever received and feel so blessed to be a part of the family I am in. My parents are my best friends and I couldn't be more grateful for the plan God had for me to grow up in a loving Christian household.

**SFC:** What is your intended major?

**Jamie:** I am currently majoring in Communications with a concentration in Public Relations.

**SFC:** What do you plan to do with your degree?

**Jamie:** I'm interested in working with a non-profit as well as continuing down the road of entrepreneurship.

**SFC:** What do you like to do in your free time?

**Jamie:** In my free time I enjoy water coloring and calligraphy. I am currently designing and creating wedding programs, wedding invitations and art for the home for clients, by hand.

**SFC:** Is there anything else you would like us to know?

Jamie: One thing I would like to state is that I am forever grateful for the grace, support and financial help Spaulding for Children has given me over the years. This organization is amazing and I have learned so much about God's grace through my experience of being awarded this scholarship. Thank you, from the bottom of my heart, thank you.



Jamie Perello and her parents!

INSIDE:

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## SAVE THE DATE!

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

Thursday, November 17, 2016
River Oaks Country Club
For more information visit:

www.spauldingforchildren.org/all-adoption-texas-hold-em-tournament/

## **Attend an Information Meeting!**

Are you or someone you know interested in adoption?

Don't know where to start?

Attend one of our information meetings!

Spaulding for Children offers information meetings twice a month. All meetings are held at the Spaulding for Children office and start at 6:00 pm.

#### **Remaining 2016 Information Meeting Dates:**

October 19, 2016 November 2, 2016 November 16, 2016 December 7, 2016

For more information, visit www.spauldingforchildren.org/events



## **Welcome New Board Members!**

Anthony J. Nocella, Caroline Simons and Anne Halliburton Stewart joined our Board of Directors this year. We are excited to welcome them to the Spaulding for Children family and look forward to working with them for years to come!

We would also like to welcome **Julie Comiskey**, who is our Junior League of Houston Outside Board Representative for the 2016-2017 JLH fiscal year.



Share Your Stories
Have a story to share with us?
Email Shannon Barilleau at
sbarilleau@spauldingforchildren.org

## A Look at Our New Angel Room!

Spaulding for Children has a foster care resource room called the Angel Room. The Angel Room is used by foster families as a resource when children come into care in emergency situations and need basic necessities to get them through their first few days in foster care. Many foster children come into care late at night after being removed from their homes by CPS and often have nothing but the clothes on their backs.

This summer, Binz DeWalch, a 16 year old junior and member of Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church, built and installed a new shelving system for his Eagle Scout project. We are so grateful to have the new shelves, which make it much easier for families to see what we have available in the Angel Room. Thank you Binz for all of your hard work - the children and families who use the Angel Room thank you, too!

If you are interested in donating items to the Angel Room, please contact Shannon Barilleau at 713.681.6991 or sbarilleau@ spauldingforchildren.org.









## Post Adption Summer Fun in South Texas!



The Beltran family enjoying Spaulding for Children's day at Schlitterbahn, South Padre Island!



The Cruz family enjoying Spaulding for Children's day at Schlitterbahn, South Padre Island!



The Ayar family enjoying Spaulding for Children's day at Schlitterbahn, South Padre Island!



The Valdez family enjoying Spaulding for Children's day at Schlitterbahn, South Padre Island!



The Aguilera and Juarez families enjoying a Corpus Christi Hooks baseball game!





The Aguilera, Juarez and Worley families enjoying a Corpus Christi Hooks baseball game!

## Post Adption Summer Fun in Houston!



The Ashcraft family had the opportunity to meet Diesel, the Dynamo Mascot!



Our Fort Bend Post Adoption families had an outing at Reining Strength Therapeutic Horsemanship this summer!

Reining Strength provides therapeutic horsemanship programs for people of all ages - children and adults - who have physical, cognitive, social, or emotional needs.



The Posada family with Diesel, the Dynamo Mascot at a Dyamo game this summer!



Daniel Bourgeois throwing out the first pitch at a Sugar Land Skeeters game this summer!

## **Meet Brandyn!**

Spaulding for Children offers a unique program that offers proactive, child-focused recruitment of adoptive families for children who have been placed in long-term foster care. This unique program provides intensive social work services to find the best adoptive home for a child by exploring all facets of the child's family, school, and friendship circles, as well as recruiting families from the broader community.

For more information about Brandyn and to find out how you can become a forever family, please contact Maristel Cedillo at 713.681.6991 or mcedillo@spauldingforchildren.org.



First Name: Brandyn Age: 16

Brandyn loves good conversation and making friends. He is a loving young man who cares about people and is always respectful. **Brandyn** enjoys sports but mainly loves talking about, watching and especially playing football.

As he gets older he dreams of going to college on a football scholarship and eventually making it as a professional football player. If he doesn't get to play professionally though, he says he would love to become a police officer because he wants to help people.

Brandyn is a bright young man who loves to learn and always strives to have a positive attitude. Brandyn wants an adoptive family who will support his goals and help him achieve them.

## Root for the Home Team!



K'Vonnta, David, Steven and Jeremiah with the Umpires for the game.

Over the summer, a few of our foster children had the opportunity to attend a Houston Astros game and watch them take on the Oakland A's.

Thanks to the UMPS CARE Charities and their BLUE Crew Ticket program, the boys were able to attend the game, meet the umpires for the game and the Astros Cheerleaders. The BLUE Crew Ticket program aims to offer memorable baseball experiences for children awaiting adoption and at-risk youth in mentoring programs.

You can tell by the smiles on their faces that these boys had a fun and memorable afternoon!

For more information about adoption and to find out more about the children pictured, who are all waiting for forever families, please contact Chelsey Castro at at 713.681.6991 or ccastro@spauldingforchildren.org.



K'Vonnta, Steven, Jeremiah and David with Astros Cheerleaders.

## 2016 Coastal Bend Day of Giving



Spaulding for Children is proud to participate in Coastal Bend Day of Giving - a 24 hour charitable challenge. This year's agency fundraising goal is \$16,111. Thanks to the generosity of many South Texas foundations, the fundraising goal will be matched dollar for dollar up to \$16,111, enabling us to raise \$32,222 on the Day of Giving. This is a great way to make a gift to Spaulding for Children and have each dollar you give doubled!

The 2016 Day of Giving will take place on **Tuesday, November 15**. Donations will be accepted through the Day of Giving website for 24 hours, starting at midnight on November 15 and ending at 11:59 pm on the same day.

#### How can you help us?

- **Preschedule a gift!** You can preschedule a gift between November 6 and November 14. Visit www.coastalbenddayofgiving.org/ spauldingforchildren and click the "donate now" button on our page to preschedule your donation! Your credit card will not be charged until November 15.
- Donate to us on November 15!
- Post about Coastal Bend Day of Giving on your social media page(s). Let your friends and followers know how they can give and how their donations will help us meet the matching goal of \$16,111!

Thank you for your support!

## **Forever Families**

Meet a few of our newest forever families below.



The W Family with Judge Newhouse



The Blake Family with caseworker Jessica



The Serrano Family



The D Family with caseworker Dee



The Taya Family with Judge Graul



**The Cordova Family** 



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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.

# Spaulding for Children's Blizzard of Giving Gift Card Drive

Each holiday season, Spaulding for Children conducts a gift card drive called Blizzard of Giving. Gift cards collected during Blizzard of Giving are used as holiday gifts for older children. Any additional gift cards left over after holiday presents are distributed are given to families in crisis throughout the year to help with emergency expenses.

Gift cards from Target, Walmart and Amazon tend to be the most versatile and useful for Spaulding for Children's families. American Express/Visa gift cards are wonderful and incredibly versatile, too. Gift cards of any denomination would be much appreciated by our children and families!

Please mail or deliver donations and gift cards to:
Spaulding for Children
Attn: Blizzard of Giving
6925 Portwest Drive, Suite 110
Houston, TX 77024

To ensure we are able to provide gifts in time for the holidays, the deadline for contributions is **December 16, 2016.** Thank you for your support and making the holidays brighter for the children we serve!