



**FAMILIES
TOGETHER**
a PLM organization

Our History

1980 - 2016 Timeline

1980: SEEING A NEED

PLMFT was founded as Pan Lutheran Ministries ("PLM") on March 11, 1980, by five people from three Wake County Lutheran churches. Their mission was to provide housing and support to those in need. The first program established was Samaritan Inn, a set of apartments near Wake Medical Center, used by low-income out-of-town families who had a critically ill member of the family in the hospital.



1981: HOUSING THE HOMELESS

Agape Place opened in a renovated historic home on East Jones Street in Raleigh, and housed homeless families (11 individuals) on a short-term, emergency basis.

1987: A NEW PROGRAM

A long-term transitional housing program, called "Families Together," began in rented apartments on Brooks Avenue in Raleigh. "Families Together" included intensive case management and life-skills training for families experiencing homelessness.

1995: OUR OWN BUILDINGS

Habitat for Humanity and Fusion Contractors, along with an army of volunteers, came together to build apartments we would own. The new location (donated by the City of Raleigh), was located at the corner of Plainview Drive and Polly Street in Raleigh and added seven three-bedroom transitional apartments and one administrative office.

2000: DOUBLING IN SIZE, ADDING A NEW PROGRAM

The City of Raleigh contracted with PLMFT to take over operation of nine two-bedroom transitional apartments on Poole Road for homeless families. We also received funding through the State of North Carolina, and then through Wake County, to double in size, to 28 apartment units in our emergency short-term program, called "Wake Family Entry."



2004: CHANGE IN DIRECTION

Agape Place was sold when we made the commitment to a model of individual units for each family, rather than group living.

2005: A NEW NAME

On June 27, the Board of Directors changed the name of Pan Lutheran Ministries to **PLM Families Together** ("PLMFT"), in order to emphasize the value of *keeping families together*. This new name would honor our Lutheran heritage while being inclusive of a new ecumenical identity.

2006: FOCUSING RESOURCES

In Spring, the original Samaritan Inn program came to a close. All resources were now to be focused on homeless families within the local area.

2007: SHIFTING TO SHORT-TERM HOUSING

Early in the year, we converted all our apartment units to "Short-term Housing," where families would live for 3-4 months. This shorter, focused time period proved to be more successful, and research had shown that moving

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families into permanent housing as quickly as possible and then providing ongoing aftercare, rather than keeping them in long-term temporary programs, was more effective. Also, more families could be served each year as we worked to address the backlog of families in crisis on the waiting list. Around this time, PLMFT lost the use of the nine 2-bedroom units on Poole Road when the sewer line broke making the site uninhabitable.

2008: EXPANDING PROGRAM OFFERINGS

Three additional apartments were secured by lease and two offices were consolidated so that the a 3-bedroom apartment could be returned to its purpose of housing large families, increasing PLMFT's housing capacity from 28 to 31 units (14% increase). Other supporting programs were expanded as well, including new life skills training classes, daily children's enrichment programming, and extended/formalized aftercare services.



2009 - 2011: MORE APARTMENTS

Two more apartments were added, bringing our total capacity to 33 units. At Brookside Apartments in Raleigh, twenty-seven were leased for families, and one served as the programming office. At our owned apartments on the corner of Plainview and Polly Drive, one unit served as the administrative office and seven three-bedroom units housed families.

2011: CUTTING BACK TO GROW

In the fall of 2011, PLMFT began preparing for reshaping its services to families by implementing a major program change. We released our all of our rental units at Brookside and brought our programming offices in-house with our administrative operations at Plainview Drive. We leased four new units in North Raleigh, for a total of ten units for our Short-term Housing program . While we now had fewer apartments, our new program, Re-Housing Support, would ultimately help us serve more families.

2012: LAUNCHING RE-HOUSING SUPPORT & TESTING CENTRALIZED INTAKE

We developed a new program called "Re-Housing Support" that moves families directly from temporary living situations, or from other shelters, into housing. Rather than having families move from shelter program to shelter program, we focus on *stable housing first*. Once housed, we continue to work with each family for 12 months. The "Centralized Intake" pilot program began operations in May, 2012, to test the concept of a one-stop assessment intake and referral service for all families seeking access to shelter in Wake County. (The program ended in early 2013.) We also added to our staff, converting the Administrative Associate position to full-time, bringing another Mentor Advocate on staff to work with families, and adding an Associate Director position to oversee our program operations.

2013—2014: GROWING THE VOLUNTEER BASE & STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS

A much-needed "Community Engagement Coordinator" position was added to the staff in the summer of 2013. We were able to grow our options for volunteers and reach out more to the community.

Community partnerships continued to become more important and included our collaboration with area organizations in a program called "**Fostering Youth Opportunities**." We're working with young adults aging out of foster care to provide our expertise and guidance as they secure housing and make their way in the world. Our goal is to break the cycle of homelessness early in their lives.

2015-2016: CELEBRATING AN ANNIVERSARY, INTRODUCING A NEW NAME

2015 marked a major milestone as we celebrate our 35th anniversary. It was also a year of movement in the community to increase collaboration among service providers. One example is the "More Than a Roof" initiative which brings together five local agencies to work with families living in motels.

On April 1st, 2016, The Board of Directors after much discernment voted unanimously to launch a new phase in our organization's growth with a new name that emphasizes who we serve and our goal of keeping **Families Together** to achieve stable housing. With this change to our name, we remain a PLM organization dedicated to carrying on the legacy of our founders and supporters. Our new name is a testament to their vision and commitment to keeping families with children together.

