



Lutheran Family Services
in the Carolinas

Celebrating 35 Years

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Since 1976, LFS Carolinas has served the Carolinas' most vulnerable people. We provide safe haven for children in crisis, adults with special needs, refugees, and individuals and families at risk of becoming homeless or struggling to recover from man-made or natural disasters. We offer accredited programs that promote healing and wholeness and collaborate with faith and civic organizations, other human service providers and government agencies.

As a social ministry organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, we respond to Christ's call to serve all people, regardless of race, national origin, orientation, religion or creed.

Our Vision

We envision
a world of wholeness
for all God's people.

Our Mission

Embracing Christ's call to serve,
LFS Carolinas walks with
the most vulnerable in our communities
toward healing and wholeness.

Our Values

We are all children of God. We treat people with dignity, respect and compassion, receiving and valuing the gifts of all.

We understand wholeness to encompass the spiritual, emotional and physical aspects of human life.

We are present for both short-term relief and long-term healing. Our care is sustained and comprehensive.

When faced with injustice, we challenge the status quo and advocate for public policy and societal change.

We understand that we are God's people of abundance, not of scarcity.

We practice good stewardship of all our gifts and resources.

We look for improvement and innovation in all we do. Our services are effective and outcome focused.

We nurture the professional and spiritual life of our employees and volunteers.

We accomplish our work through collaborations and partnerships, particularly reaching out to our ecumenical brothers and sisters.

As a ministry of the Church, empowered by the Holy Spirit, we embrace our Lutheran roots and are vigilant in finding ways to work with congregations and other Lutheran institutions.

Our History

The Nineteenth Century

1888 In 1888, North and South Carolina Lutherans joined with three other synods to establish the Lutheran Orphanage of the South in Salem, VA. The effort followed the wave of faith-based efforts to reach out to widows and orphans of the U. S. Civil War.

The Twentieth Century

1920s South Carolina Lutherans formed a Committee on Inner Missions in the early 1920's to gather information on the needs of "...young and old, whether they be physically or mentally disabled, whether in homes of the Church, private institutions, or in public charity," to determine the Church's obligation toward these individuals. The Committee on Inner Missions was a forerunner of Lutheran Social Services of Central South Carolina.

1930s In the 1930's, the Salem orphanage expanded its campus and assumed the name Lutheran Children's Home of the South. With the Great Depression at its peak, 144 children resided at the Lutheran Children's Home.

1972 As local services for children and families became more available, the orphanage model suffered. Support of the Children's Home was withdrawn by the South Carolina Synod in 1972. Two years later a study commissioned by NC Synod President George Whittecar recommended that the NC Synod continue its association with the Children's Home, while simultaneously pursuing an affiliated child care program in NC.

1976 A \$35,000 grant from the Lutheran Children's Home Board launched its NC Division of the Home with **Bill D. Brittain** named as Director. On June 1, 1976, Brittain began work out of a basement office at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Raleigh.

NC Lutheran Church Women advocated for improvements in the treatment of juveniles and championed the passage of legislation that treated troubled youth more humanely.

1978 On March 1, 1978, the first of four group homes for boys opened on Pecan Avenue in Charlotte, the start of Group Home Services under contract to Mecklenburg County. These homes offered community-based programs to youth unable to reside in a family setting. Bill Brittain acquainted Charlotte-area clergy and social service professionals with the young agency.

The Group Home effort expanded into Cleveland, then Cabarrus counties. Clusters of local Lutheran congregations known as support groups played a critical role in the development of programs. The Concord Support Group purchased a home to locate an LFS program during the tight rental housing market.

1979 In 1979, in keeping with de-institutionalization of children and youth, Foster Care Services was introduced to provide temporary placements for children in consistent and loving family environments. The same year, a Refugee Resettlement initiative began to assist newly arrived refugees in obtaining self-sufficiency.

1980 A group convened in 1980 by Synod President Ernest Misenheimer recommended that North Carolina withdraw from the Lutheran Children's Home of the South. Both the NC and VA Synods agreed. The Articles of Incorporation for Lutheran Family Services in North Carolina were granted by the State of North Carolina on September 15, 1980.

In a response to a Triad-area pastor's concerns about contemporary issues such as divorce and domestic violence, the LFS Family Counseling Services was established in 1980.

1981 January 1, 1981, marked the first meeting of the first elected Board of Trustees of Lutheran Family Services in North Carolina. The Board included: Rev. A. Glenn Boland, Rev. Gene C. Bost, Mrs. Jan Conrad, Rev. Karl U. Dunn, Rev. Michael W. Frye, Mrs. Frances Goins, Mrs. Frances Huddle, Rev. John R. Jones, III, Ms. Wanda Karriker, Mrs. Joan Lee, Rev. Henry A. Lineberger, Rev. David Lohr, Dr. Ernest L. Misenheimer, Rev. David Nelson, Mr. Larry Parrish, Rev. Harry H. Robinson, Jr., Rev. David A. Sloop and Rev. Charles Zimmerman.

LFS program size doubled in terms of group homes, foster care, day treatment and refugee resettlement; staff size and budget also doubled in 1983.

1983 A new initiative, Immigration Services, complemented LFS Refugee Resettlement work by providing low-cost, high quality immigration services to newcomers to the US.

1980s The "Willie M." class action suit in the early 80's mandated that troubled, dually diagnosed youth were entitled access to age-appropriate treatment instead of punitive stays in training schools; "Willie M." himself was a Lutheran Family Services client and LFS developed a specialty in serving this population.

1984 The Lutheran Social Ministry Agency of Greater Columbia reorganized in 1984 to become Lutheran Social Services of Central South Carolina, shifting its focus to family counseling and enrichment. The new agency was headed by Dr. Henry McKay.

1986 Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) heightened awareness of unaccompanied minors and LFS began serving young Vietnamese who came to the US. In 1986, Adoption Services was launched with an emphasis on international adoptions.

1987 In 1987, Lutheran Family Services in North Carolina became an accredited agency of the Council on Accreditation of Services for Families and Children, with specialized accreditation in the areas of Family Counseling, Family Life Enrichment, Refugee Services, Children's Group Home Services and Foster Care.

Inmate/Family Consultation (known as the Prison Ministry at its founding in 1987) got underway at Wake County Correctional Center in Raleigh, NC, to promote positive life skills to individual inmates while strengthening their relationships with family members.

In 1989, LFS Carolinas added a residential services component for adult developmentally disabled and/or mentally ill individuals in response to the concerns of aging parents.

LFS was the largest private, non-profit child and family agency in North Carolina with a staff of 320 and a budget of more than \$9,700,000 in 1989.

LFS opened five group homes for disturbed children in South Carolina in 1989 at the request of the State Continuum of Care (SC's equivalent of the "Willie M." program for children with severe behavior issues).

In 1989, the Family Service Institute was created as a subsidiary corporation to provide consultation and training to the staff of LFS and other social service providers.

A task force was formed by SC Bishop James Aull and NC Bishop Michael McDaniel to study the feasibility of a joint social ministry organization for the two synods. On January 1, 1991, with the approval of both the North and South Carolina Synods, the agency became Lutheran Family Services in the Carolinas.



Immigration Services received accredited status with the Board of Immigration Appeals of the US Immigration and Naturalization Services.

LFS was named "Agency of the Year" by the North Carolina Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers in 1991.

1994 LFS kicked off the Love in Action Capital Appeal in 1994, which raised more than \$3.5 million in North Carolina. Several group home properties, a Greensboro "Welcome House" for refugees and the Bill D. Brittain Service Center in Raleigh were acquired as a result of the appeal; LFS staff in Raleigh occupy the Service Center in 1996.

In 1994 Lutheran Disaster Response identified LFS as its affiliate agency under the auspices of the NC Synod, and the agency became a vital player in the relief and recovery from Hurricanes Fran and Floyd.

1997 Lutheran Social Services of Central South Carolina joined LFS and became the Columbia arm of the LFS Counseling and Education Division in 1997.

1998 The Partnership for Families Capital Appeal began in 1998, raising more than \$1.6 million in South Carolina. As a result of this appeal, LFS created a Family Life Specialist program in 1999 to provide a resource for clergy and congregations in the SC Synod.

2000 LFS staff in Columbia occupied a new Family Center in December of 2000.

The Twenty-First Century

The SC Family Center, underwritten by contributions to the Partnership for Families Appeal, is named for Bishop Emeritus Herman W. Cauble on February 4, 2001.

2001 In 2001, Bill Brittain retired and **Suzanne Gibson Wise** became the second president of LFS Carolinas.

2005 Reformation Lutheran Church in Columbia, SC worked in partnership with LFS Carolinas to open SPLASH, a summer camp created to make a difference in the lives of the Somali Bantu refugees who were moving into their community in 2005. Now, SPLASH Camp has evolved to include refugee and immigrant children of all nationalities.

2006 In 2006, the Board of Trustees built on past success to conceive a new vision, accompanied by a mission and values designed to propel the organization into the future. At the same time they crafted a new logo and graphic identity to depict the essence of their dream for those we serve.

2007 In 2007, LFS Carolinas began providing transitional care to homeless male veterans at Kinard Manor in Greenwood, SC. Subsequently, the agency opened two more homes in the Carolinas to serve homeless female veterans.

By the end of 2007, LFS Carolinas worked with more than 2,500 survivors who relocated to the Carolinas as a result of the devastation of Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

2009 LFS Carolinas decentralized the agency's headquarters and back office support with the goal of allowing the agency to meet the needs of the communities in which it works more quickly and more effectively in 2009.

2010 In 2010, with the guidance and approval from the Bishops and Synod Councils of the North Carolina Synod and South Carolina Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, LFS Carolinas formally affiliated with Lutheran Services for the Aging in order to provide "collaborative opportunities for improved and additional services, eliminate duplication in administrative services, and strengthen Lutheran social ministry in the face of the new economic reality." That same year **Ted W. Goins, Jr.** was named president of LFS Carolinas after the retirement of Suzanne Gibson Wise. **Myra N. Griffie** was named Chief Operating Officer.

2011 LFS Carolinas is awarded a contract to provide Community Training Homes for adults with developmental disabilities in South Carolina in 2011.



The "cross" was unanimously selected by our trustees as a strong and important icon to incorporate into the LFS Carolinas logo. The logo type placement under the cross is symbolic of all LFS Carolinas work with vulnerable people being done "under the cross."

The circle, having no beginning or end, symbolizes eternity, wholeness and spirituality.

Blue and green are significant liturgical colors. Blue is associated with Advent season and hope, green is used after Epiphany and Pentecost in the Christian tradition to symbolize growth in faith.

Today, LFS Carolinas employs over 200 staff members throughout North and South Carolina. We continue to serve vulnerable people through assertive community treatment teams (ACTT), adoption services, counseling and family life services, foster care, refugee services, residential services for adults and children, supportive housing, transitional apartments and veterans services.



Lutheran Family Services in the Carolinas

www.lfscarolinas.org

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