



PLM Families Together, Inc.

P.O. Box 14395

Raleigh, North Carolina 27620

919-212-1123 (ph) + 919-212-1120 (fax) www.plmft.org

SEASONS OF CARING

You have unlocked independence for more than 100 families this year through your generous support. Please join us at our Annual Breakfast on Thursday, November 12 at Embassy Suites, Cary, 8:00 a.m. This is our opportunity to say thank you. We will share the inspiring stories of families in our program. We want you to know how deeply we appreciate your role in helping families. We will be accepting pledges and financial donations, but there will be no pressure to contribute. We would be honored by your presence. Please RSVP to Gail@plmft.org or 624-1280 if you can join us.

MAKE A WISH

“Happy Birthday to you, happy birthday to you, happy birthday to... umm... everyone! Happy birthday to you!” The voices of the Girl Scouts of Troop 1254 and the children who reside at the Brookside apartment complex filled the living room of the PLM office. One of the every-other-monthly birthday parties thrown by Troop 1254 and its leaders was well underway. The children, residents and girl scouts alike, were congregated in a tight cluster on the floor in front of the glowing candles. With the anthem’s end, some of them jumped to their feet and blew in the cake’s general direction while voices chanted, “Make a wish! Make a wish!” But many of the wishes that evening had already come true. The girl scouts and their troop leaders had dedicated an evening to applying temporary tattoos, playing games, dancing, and sharing treats with PLM families and staff. Their tremendous generosity resulted in a fabulous birthday celebration and fun had by all. Shortly after the singing, homemade cake and lemonade were distributed to all of the birthday party participants. Their frosting mustaches stayed in place until the cleanup and goodbyes began. Farewell to the charismatic girl scouts and dinosaur body art... until November, that is.

TRANSITIONS

It is with a heavy heart that we announce that Laura Benson, Executive Director, leaves PLM Families Together after a successful four-year tenure. Laura will continue to serve our community in a new role with Lutheran Family Services.

While change is always difficult, it is also exciting and presents new opportunities to look at the organization and decide what we want to achieve over the next 5 years. New leadership always provides fresh energy and inspiration.

In the interim, Jim Davis, who was recently our Board Secretary and a member of our Executive Committee, will serve as Interim Director. Jim has taken a leave of absence from his board roles. In his Interim Director role he will direct the transition process; Beth Bordeaux chairs the search committee which is already underway. You can contact Jim Davis at jimdavis@hoskinsdavis.com or at 859-0892.

With these changes, and as we transition into a new calendar year, we continue to look for additional Board and committee leadership. Please search your hearts and give prayerful consideration to how your congregation might best help during this time.

HOLIDAY SMILES

In the movie, *A Christmas Story*, the story’s main character, Ralphie, reflects with great nostalgia upon a childhood Christmas. He captures his child’s view of this miraculous holiday when he speaks of it as the “lovely, glorious, beautiful Christmas, upon which the entire kid year revolved.” Oh, to remember those days of wonderment! Last year, 30 different businesses, churches, and families participated in Holiday Smiles. Their outstanding generosity resulted in magical Christmases for 69 families who were enrolled in the PLM program or who had successfully completed the program. This year, we are attempting to once again, draw on the generosity of past donors and encourage the participation of new ones, so that the families of PLM Families Together can share in the giving tradition of the blessed holidays. It is our intention that every child currently enrolled or recent graduate of PLM experiences a holiday celebration, which like Ralphie’s, will make the past year of excited anticipation worth every moment. Please consider becoming a Holiday Smiles sponsor this year. Please contact Elisabeth Flaherty at jv@plmft.org or 212-8607 to volunteer.

Priority Wish List ~ Pots and Pans, Dishes and Silverware, Gently used (clean) jackets and coats



November 2009