



paRa los niños for the childRen

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

Today

Today, Para Los Niños continues to serve L.A.'s neediest children and families placing education at the core of its mission to break the cycle of poverty. With six early education centers, three charter schools and six student and community centers, serving 6,000 children (0-14 years), youth (16-24 years) and families each year. PLN provides a comprehensive social services model that incorporates: high-quality education, family support and mental health services, parent engagement and community building opportunities to children and families living in at-risk neighborhoods of Los Angeles County.

2013

2013 saw Para Los Niños open a charter middle school in Downtown Los Angeles' Garment District, near Skid Row. We are co-located with LAUSD's 9th Street Elementary—a school with which PLN has a long history of partnership.

2010

In 2010, PLN opened a Primary Center (grades K-1) in Westlake at the request of the LA Unified School District (LAUSD). The Primary Center serves a distinctly impoverished (#1 in local census data) population comprised of many recent Central American immigrants. Many children come to our Primary Center with learning deficits even more dramatic than the downtown populations we serve.

2002

Throughout these first two decades of community service, Para Los Niños was developing deeper and richer educational elements to all of its children's programs in response to the needs and demands of the children and families we serve. Then in 2002, Para Los Niños opened a charter elementary school in downtown Los Angeles and the organization became a school operator. Our elementary school grew and thrived due in part to the trust PLN had built with the communities we serve.

1990s

During the 1990s, PLN implemented an innovative integrated approach to managing its social services programs in support of the entire family, subsequently winning the largest Family Preservation grant in Los Angeles County's history. This grant allowed PLN to expand its Family Resource Center, offering more services to larger numbers of clients, both directly and in partnership with other non-profits.

1980s

Throughout the 1980s, Para Los Niños' growing organizational abilities and reputation, combined with increasing levels of child poverty in LA, led us to expand beyond our original Skid Row home. First, PLN expanded its services to include after-school programs, beginning at 9th Street Elementary School, and soon our work grew to encompass more than a dozen other inner city schools. PLN also launched its first family outreach and social services programs in the 1980s—responding to the needs of the families it was serving through its early education and afterschool programs. This grew into a focused Family Preservation program still in place today.

1979

In 1979, the Los Angeles Times published a front-page story on children living on Skid Row in Downtown Los Angeles, detailing the daily horrors inflicted on these children. Inspired by the article, Tanya Tull, an experienced social worker and teacher, was moved to act and she created the first children's social service agency on Skid Row, Para Los Niños (PLN). In January 1980, PLN secured an initial \$5,000 grant and leased a 5,000- square-foot former warehouse in the heart of Skid Row. The space was renovated and licensed to operate as a childcare facility to serve 51 children from the Skid Row neighborhood--and Para Los Niños began serving the community.

