



# Ettie Lee's **FIRE**SIDE

**Ettie Lee Youth & Family Services provides the following services for abused, abandoned and neglected children:**

- Nurturing, loving environments, for boys 9-17, in 9 group homes
- A network of more than 35 loving foster families
- Permanent placement for boys and girls of all ages
- Fully accredited substance abuse treatment
- Outpatient after-school mental health programs

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*Remember Ettie Lee Youth & Family Services when you designate your United Way gift.*

**At Ettie Lee Youth & Family Services we are saving lives, changing lives & building hope in the children, youth & families we serve.**

## **A Loving Family - The Best Cure for Abused, Abandoned or Neglected Children**

Four (4) abused, abandoned or neglected children have been placed in permanent, loving homes during the last several months as a result of the Ettie Lee Adoption / Foster Family Program. And, in the next 4 months, Sandra Johnson, Director of Foster Care for Ettie Lee Youth & Family Services, projects being able to place an additional 19 children in the permanent, loving homes of our very own Foster Families. That will be a total of 23 children placed in 2006. In 2005 a total of 10 children were placed in permanent homes.

"It's been taking Ettie Lee Youth & Family Services less time to place children into permanent loving placements," says Johnson, "And for the children's sake, the sooner they feel that they are in a secure, loving home the better," continued Johnson. What took any where from 18 months to 24 months for a good placement, now takes about 12-15 months total.

It only took a few months to place Jerry with Ettie Lee foster parents. The foster parents welcomed Jerry into their home permanently at the very difficult age of 14. Today, 4 years later, Jerry is a college student and living with his biological brother. Both Jerry and his brother still remember their biological parents who were not able to raise them due to drug abuse.

Although licensed as an adoption agency for 10 years, Ettie Lee Youth & Family Services has not used their license for permanent placements until now. For the past several months they have been conducting the necessary home studies and are recruiting and training staff needed to place abused, neglected and abandoned children into loving homes.

Ettie Lee Youth & Family Services is now ready to begin to implement the complex, purposeful and deliberate operation of matching and placing abused, abandoned and neglected children into permanent homes - homes that are already in the Ettie Lee Foster Family Agency (FFA).

Not every foster agency is able to act as both a foster agency and an adoption agency. "We are in the very unique position of being able to place a child in the best home possible for them," said Johnson, "because we will be placing these children in the homes of foster parents that are already in the Ettie Lee family. We have a history with, and trust these families. We know that each placement will be the right placement for both the child and the family. We will really feel confident about each and every placement."

Ms. Johnson also went on to note that many of the children being placed are less than 6 years old. "What this means," said Johnson, "is that the assimilation process into the family, the lack of behavioral issues of children at this age adds to the success of each and every child placed in a loving home that has the Ettie Lee Youth & Family Services stamp of approval. "Statistics are not available at this time that explain the increase in the number of younger children that are waiting to be placed", Johnson says,

*continued...page 3*



### From the President's Desk

#### "A Loving Family"

Many of us have wonderful memories of growing up in a happy home with a loving, caring mother and father. Such memories fill our hearts with love and appreciation for the positive life experiences that have blessed our lives.

Sadly, the same cannot be said of the boys and girls who enter the Ettie Lee Youth & Family Services programs. These children and teenagers have not experienced love, joy and happiness. They have experienced rejection, abuse, pain and abandonment.

We at Ettie Lee believe that when we can provide a child with a loving home, either by way of our foster or adoption homes, we have truly fulfilled the mission of Ettie Lee Youth & Family Services.

Clayton Downey,  
President & CEO

*"If you want to do something to help change your world, you can do that - one child at a time."*

**Clifton Davis**  
(1945 -)

## SPOTLIGHT ON: Dean & Kathy Binks

### *If You Help One Kid, It's Going To Be Worth It*

*The Rewards Keep Coming...*...and so do the memories...

For the past 38 years Dean and Kathy Binks have not led a typical life! What began as a summer job turned into a lifetime of wonderful memories for Dean and Kathy Binks-- you see they have been the parents to hundreds of boys these past 38 years -- and the memories keep on coming.

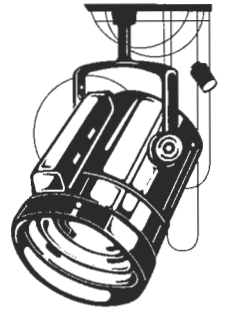
Today, they work tirelessly to make a difference in the lives of the young men in their care. Their philosophy is simple - treat every young man like a member of the family. The young men become a part of the Binks' family and the Fontana community where they live as soon as they walk through the door. Right now Dean and Kathy are home parents to: Brian D., Cris E., Don F., Jon P. Trent R., Sam S., and Alan T. And, that doesn't include Dean and Kathy's 4 children, 11 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild!

The Binks involve their residents in every aspect of the home's life -- sports, family meals, and recreational activities. Oh, and let's not forget the doctor's appointments, clothes shopping, going to the movies, getting to school, and so much more!

"The rewards and memories are endless and many of the young men who have left our care still keep in touch with us. We have a living room full of portraits of our boys," said Kathy Binks. And, one of their former residents has worked with them for the past 25 years -- a true testament to their ability to change lives.

This is just what Ettie Lee envisioned when she started Ettie Lee 56 years ago...homes where boys could live that are loving home environments. "Today Dean and Kathy Binks carry on the tradition and legacy of our founder Miss Ettie Lee," said Clayton L. Downey, President & CEO of Ettie Lee Youth & Family Services. Homes that would help kids...it's just as Dean Binks says, "When Ettie Lee interviewed us for the job, she said if you're going to help one kid, it's going to be worth it. The older we get, the more we realize how right she was!"

If you are interested in helping us fund our programs for abused, neglected and abandoned children, please call Vicki Mastro at 626/960-4861. You will be glad you did!



## ...A Loving Family - (continued)

"but we know that drugs and alcohol - especially meth-amphetamine use has a lot do with children being abandoned and neglected by their biological parents."

While children are in Ettie Lee's Foster Family Program, they are continually monitored. If necessary, Ettie Lee can provide substance abuse treatment and mental health programs. All aspects of addiction and relapse prevention are addressed in the drug and health education segment of treatment. Focus is placed on the health needs of one's mind as well as

body, and how participants take control of meeting those needs. Daily activities in the mental health program could include individual, family and group therapy; drug/alcohol prevention, education; gang intervention; independent living skills; and specialized group activities that address such problems as victim issues, anger management, drug involvement and family issues.

Jerry is just one of the hundreds of children and youth Ettie Lee Youth & Family Services work with each and every year.

If you, or anyone you know is interested in learning about how you can become a foster parent, please call Sandra Johnson at 626/967-5082. Or, if you are interested in knowing how you can help fund these much-needed programs for abused, neglected and abandoned children, please call Vicki Mastro at 626/960-4861.

## LIVES WE ARE WORKING TO CHANGE

*The following are profiles of some of the young people we have worked with in our Residential Care Facilities and Foster Homes. Their names have been changed to protect their confidentiality.*

Children taking guns to school has become a reality in today's society. Frank was one such child. He said that he took the unloaded gun to school because it "made me feel big and important." Frank threatened a classmate and ended up in placement at Ettie Lee Youth & Family Services. At the age of 12, Frank has seen a lot of guns, rage and death in his neighborhood. Ettie Lee is able to take him out of his environment and help him deal with his problems and family.

Frank worked intensively with his Ettie Lee therapist who also worked with his family to help them to sort out their own problems and learn how to help Frank. Today, everyone has done a great job in therapy. They are working on parenting issues, communications and problem-solving skills. Someday we hope they will be together as a family again.

John has experienced more negative life cir-

cumstances than most adults will encounter in their lifetime. He was raised by a father who was in and out of jail and had little time to spend with John. A gang became John's family. When he came to Ettie Lee Youth & Family Services, John was a very difficult young man and

We tried lots of different ways to reach out to him. After a lot of conversations and therapy, we learned that John had another family member that might be able to take him into their home. We contacted them and today they are working on towards becoming a family. Though John has had his ups and downs, he has come a long way. His schoolwork has improved tremendously; he plays on the football team and is very popular with everyone that he meets. His attitude has improved 110% and he is now a very positive young man. While John was at Ettie Lee he had seen another way of life, one filled with hope and promise. He has set goals for himself and is determined to fill each and every one! John still has a long way to go, but we all believe that he can do it. Good luck, John!!

## FINANCIAL PLANNING

### Helping Ettie Lee Youth & Family Services plan for the future.....

How can you make sure that Ettie Lee Youth & Family Services will be here to help children and families for many more years to come? Give a donation through your will, living trust, life insurance or retirement plan. Or, consider a gift of stocks, bonds or mutual funds instead of cash.

In addition to gifts made today as part of your annual donation, please consider giving a gift that will be distributed in the future. Gifts that will help us continue for many more years to come. Here are some options:

1. A gift through your will or living trust - after you have provided for your loved ones, you can leave a specific amount of property, percentage of your estate or "what's left" to Ettie Lee Youth & Family Services.

2. Gifts of Stock - any securities that you have owned for twelve (12) months or more and that have increased in value since you bought them are subject to capital gains tax if you sell them. However, if you make a gift of these securities to Ettie Lee Youth & Family Services, you get a charitable donation for the full fair market value as of the day of transfer and avoid the tax on the capital gain. These gifts will be used by Ettie Lee Youth & Family Services to ensure the future of the organization. Ettie Lee stated that she wanted the organization to "serve 1000 years." With your support we will be able to do just that. Please call Vicki Mastro at 626/960-4861 if you have questions regarding this special way to help Ettie Lee Youth & Family Services save lives, change lives and build hope in the youth and families we serve.

*"There is no better time than right now to start your own "family tradition" of helping needy children.*

*Debbie Boone (1956 - )*

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*Donations included are from October 1, 2005 - September 30, 2006*



Ettie Lee Youth & Family Services  
Invites you to join us for "A Grand Adventure" at

# LLADRO

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On Wednesday, December 6, 2006, 5 - 8 p.m.

Featuring...

Photography by Angela Maria Ortiz S., and Music by Lori Andrews, Jazz Harpist

*Light holiday refreshments will be served*

Please R.S.V.P by December 4 to 626/960-4861 X3111

*A portion of the proceeds will benefit Ettie Lee Youth & Family Services*



## Ettie Lee Youth & Family Services

5146 N. Maine Avenue  
Box 339  
Baldwin Park, CA 91706

PHONE: (626) 960-4861

FAX: (626) 960-6241

E-MAIL: Vicki\_m@ettielee.org



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