

Ettie Lee's FIRE RESIDE

Saving Lives, Changing Lives and Building Hope for Children and Families in Family-Like Settings

October 2007

ETTIE LEE YOUTH & FAMILY Services provides the following services for abused, abandoned and neglected children:

- Nurturing, loving environments, for boys 8-17, 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
- Evidence-based treatment program

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

Ettie Lee Foster Child Awarded Prestigious Scholarship

Marcy* has been awarded a scholarship to the Summer Institute for the Gifted (SIG) at UCLA

Marcy, age 9, and her sister Ginny*, age 8, have been living with foster parents, Dolores and Raleigh Littles Jr. and their son Raleigh III, age 10, for just over one year now.

Dolores and Raleigh realized very shortly after the girls came to live with them that they were very smart and talented. So smart and talented that Marcy's teacher, Mrs. Battles, of the Azusa Unufied School District applied for the prestigious award at UCLA for Marcy. The process was a long one that included interviews, scores at the 95th percentile and written



The Littles family on a beautiful Saturday afternoon—left-right, Raleigh III, Marcy, Raleigh II (dad), Dolores (mom) and Ginny.

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letters of recommendations from Marcy's teachers. Membership is open to high ability students, grades 4-11, seeking exciting educational opportunities, searching for challenging ways to develop their talents, and hoping to interact with creative and talented peers like themselves. The program's mission is to connect gifted and talented children and youth to opportunities, resources and recognition.

In May, Marcy and her foster family were given the good news. For three weeks this summer, Marcy, will be attending UCLA's Summer Institute for the Gifted Program. There are only 25 of these scholarships awarded each year in the whole United States!

Her foster parents are very proud of her. In the year since Marcy and Ginny have lived with the Littles, they have encouraged both of the girls to do the best that they can at whatever they try. Marcy takes swimming lessons, is a cheerleader and draws, sings and dances whenever she has a chance. They both fit so very well in the Littles'

See **SCHOLARSHIP** page 4

**These are not their real names. They have been changed to protect their privacy.*

From the President's Desk



Clayton Downey

We will be able to spend more time with the residents!

When we asked, YOU made it very clear that you wanted Ettie Lee Youth & Family Services to be able to impact future generations. You did this by financially supporting the upgrade of our computer hardware and software. We knew that with a project of this size (Ettie Lee needed to raise more than \$300,000) it would be a few years before we could raise such a large sum of money. Some of you started giving in 2004 and others as recently as 2006.

In 2006 we started to purchase the necessary software and hardware. Then we started meeting with the experts at Anasazi Client Data Systems. During many face-to-face meetings our teams have built a comprehensive client data system that talks the Ettie Lee language. The treatment staff will be able to utilize the client data system to improve their efficiency and be able to spend more time with our clients.

This could not have been possible without your support. Want to see the results of all of the hard work? Give me a call at 626-960-4861. We'd love to give you a personal demonstration!

Spotlight On

Linda Brandes is someone we would like you to know

Two of her passions are kids and art



She has raised two of her own kids, and she has 'adopted' the troubled kids at Ettie Lee Youth & Family Services.

She was not always able to give. She was raised in a middle class family. Her first marriage ended in divorce and she and her two children were forced to live on welfare. Linda knows first hand the importance of giving back to make a difference in people's lives.

During this time Linda, a single mom, raised her two children and earned a Bachelor of Arts in Applied Arts and Sciences. She graduated Cum Laude and received an award of

merit for Overall Academic distinction in the area of Metal Technology.

When she and her second husband's business became very successful in the 1990's, they both took pleasure in giving back to organizations they believed in. It was during this time that she was able to start to collect art. "I have always loved to have beautiful art all around me. I appreciate it so much and I find it very inspirational," remarked Linda.

As a patron of the arts, Linda has sat on the board of directors at the Lux Art Institute, an up and coming institute for artists in Encinitas, Calif., since 2000. The Lux Institute works with living artists allowing the community to watch and engage in the creative process. Linda is also a major supporter of Ettie Lee Youth & Family Services.

During the 1990's our Board Chair and Linda's brother, Ron Bateman, introduced Ettie Lee to Linda. In 1999, Linda pledged half of what it would cost to fully overhaul our outdated technology—\$150,000. Grantors funded the balance. Since

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Ron Knight (left) joined Ettie Lee Youth & Family Services Board in 2006. This Southern California native is a CPA, holds his JD from Western States and a PhD from UCLA. "Due to Ron's expertise in Estate and Financial Planning and his ability to raise funds for Ettie Lee his board appointment was a natural for us," said Ron Bateman (right), Ettie Lee's Board Chairman.



Walter Allen (center), former Mayor of Covina and currently a Covina City Council member was appointed to sit on the Board of Directors for Ettie Lee Youth & Family Services in 2007. "With his background rooted in service, most recently with his appointment to the California Youth Authority (CYA), Walt Allen is an asset to our Board," remarked Ron Bateman, Ettie Lee's Board Chairman. "Walt understands our mission and our youth. He will help us to facilitate the success we have had in changing lives and building productive citizens." He is flanked by Board Members Norma Provencio (right) and Lou Fisher (left).

then Linda's generosity has allowed us to proceed with the much needed, overdue, major interior and exterior upgrades to our 9 homes-more than \$500,000.

Linda resides in Rancho Santa Fe, California with her dogs Jack and Lucy, and when she is not helping underprivileged children, fully engrossed with Lux or traveling, she spends time with her 2 grandchildren.

Development Corner

New Law Brings New Opportunities

Second year law is in effect

Congress took an important step to strengthen American's retirement system while also encouraging additional charitable giving. The Pension Protection Act of 2006 (PPA) may offer you an opportunity for tax-free charitable giving in 2007.

Making gifts from IRA funds that would be subject to tax if withdrawn voluntarily or under mandatory withdrawal requirements may be wise for many this year.

The Pension Protection Act of 2006 gives those at least 70^{1/2} years of age the opportunity to help overcome some of these challenges by making tax-free charitable gifts.

Congress allowed these individuals in 2006, and will allow these individuals again in 2007 with traditional or Roth IRA's to make tax-free gifts directly to qualified charities such as Ettie Lee Youth & Family Services. Donors may choose to make charitable distributions in any amount up to \$100,000 in 2007, if you so desired. A couple with separate IRAs could each give up to that amount.

You must complete your transaction prior to December 31, 2007. Check with your advisors about the best ways to take advantage of this giving opportunity.

Keep in mind we would be pleased to assist you in any way possible. Please feel free to call **Vicki Mastro** at 626-960-4861 with your questions.

CALLING ALL PAST RESIDENTS

WE INVITE all past residents of **Ettie Lee Youth & Family Services** to get in touch with us. We would like very much to know what you are up to these days and to get some sense of how Ettie Lee influenced your life. We would also like to keep you up to date on all that is happening at Ettie Lee. In order for us to do this, please send your name and address to:

Ettie Lee Youth & Family Services
 5146 N. Maine
 Box 339
 Baldwin Park, CA 91706
 Attn: Vicki Mastro
 Or you can call 626-960-4861
 or
 email vicki_m@ettielee.org

Holiday Cards for You by Ettie Lee Kids

Plan ahead and order your holiday cards today and help children who have been abused, neglected or abandoned. Ettie Lee Youth & Family Services is now offering a package of 12 cards (4 designs) that feature original designs created by our very own children. The cards 5x7, printed in full color, are only \$10 per package.

For more information or to place your order: CALL 626-960-4861

You can also order by mail. Please complete information below:

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gratefully acknowledges all our donors. If your name is inadvertently missing or misspelled, please call Vicki Mastro at 626-960-4861 so that we can make a correction in our next newsletter.

SCHOLARSHIP *Continued from page 1*

family that Dolores and Raleigh are seeking legal guardianship for both of the girls. Raleigh III could not agree more. They are an active family and Raleigh III says he likes them because they can keep up with him!

"We believe in family and education," says Dolores, "and we are trying to make all of our children's wishes come true." Marcy, a very compassionate child, has already expressed interest in becoming a pediatrician.

From a very early age Marcy remembers wanting to take care of children. Maybe that's because when Marcy and her sister were younger they were not cared for. They lived with their mother until she was arrested for meth-amphetamine use. They went to live with their dad and ended up in a homeless shelter. A

Ettie Lee's Fireside www.ettielee.org



Marcy and Dolores finishing up her homework.

grandmother took them in for a while but ultimately they were placed into foster care. Dolores and Raleigh are the second set of foster parents the girls have had. Although allowed by the court to visit Marcy and Ginny, their mother has not set up regular monitored visits.

Since coming to live with the Littles, Marcy has started a collection of angels. Says Dolores, "Marcy is

everything that an angel represents- she is loving, compassionate, giving, kind and thoughtful. We would just be happy if her dreams came true because of something we did."

Ettie Lee Youth & Family Services is a social service agency that has served abused, abandoned and neglected youth for over 56 years. Right now there is a critical shortage of foster and adoptive homes. Ettie Lee Foster Family Agency has children of all ages looking for a family. Sometimes the children stay for a few months or even a few years. Sometimes they are available for adoption. Qualified adults receive training and financial support to aid you in the care of these children. If you, or someone you know is interested in learning more about how you can be a foster parent, please call Linda Klein at 626-967-5082 ext.3514.

Every Picture Tells A Story



Clayton Downey (right), president & CEO of Ettie Lee, met Walter Bannegas, a former Ettie Lee resident, at Friends of Foster Children's annual spring luncheon. Ettie Lee would like each and every past resident to contact us. We would like to know what you are up to these days and get a sense of how Ettie Lee influenced your life. Call Vicki M. at 626-960-4861 or email her at vicki_m@ettielee.org if you are or know of someone who is a past resident.



Azusa Council member Robert Gonzales (l) recently visited Ettie Lee's Oak Knolls home for 11 boys in Azusa. Council member Gonzales, a former recreation director, brought the residents all types of recreation equipment which they immediately put to use. Council member Gonzales is joined by Ettie Lee Group Care Specialist, Ted Aeslund.



left-right: Walt Allen, Covina Council member and newest Ettie Lee Board member with Covina Chamber of Commerce President/CEO Dawn Nelson and Covina Mayor John King at the very successful and delicious "Cuisines of Covina" on May 17. A portion of the proceeds from the event were donated to Ettie Lee.



California Utah Women held their annual spring luncheon in March at the Disneyland Hotel. CUW board members (left-right) are Melissa van Blankenstein, Carmen Perry and Joyce Wing. At far right is Ettie Lee President & CEO Clayton Downey. CUW will hold it's annual fall luncheon on November 3. If you would like information please contact: Becky McKinnon at 714-544-5662 or bbeckysbaskets@aol.com.



left-right: Ilse Boykin, and Beth Dixon, VP Community Banking Manager, both from Vineyard Bank, Moana Richardson, Senior Childcare Worker at Ettie Lee and Orlando, former John Eccles resident and Dena Garvin-Smart, Senior VP Regional Community Banking Sales Manager, Vineyard Bank, pose for a picture after Ilse, Beth and Dena presented a short training to all of the residents of the John Eccles home. Their training stressed the importance of maintaining a savings account/plan.



Volunteers from Free Arts for Abused Children hosted pre-Easter festivities for the youngsters (and even adults!) in Ettie Lee's Foster Family program. They made bunny ears, egg baskets, flower pots and colorful characters. And to top it all off, Free Arts even hosted lunch!



That's Ronnie from Wal-Mart Westminster presenting a check for \$1000 to Ettie Lee. Thank you so much for your support.



The Quilt Lady, aka Mary Ellen Simmons, shows off some of her handiwork. If you are interested in "tying" quilts Mary Ellen would love to hear from you. Her email address is marysim@msn.com.



Matt Hulet and his Eagle Scout Troop 644 from Upland, California hand-made 10 quilts for their Eagle Scout project. Here's Matt with all of their hard work. Ettie Lee tries to give a new or hand-made quilt to each of its new residents. For many of the boys it's the only thing they can call their own and they get to take it with them when they leave.

Tell Us What You Think

AS WE continue to develop Ettie Lee's new website www.ettielee.org, we hope you will let us know what you think. What would YOU find helpful to have on our website, or to include in our newsletter? How have you used our website or other websites and how have they worked or helped you? We appreciate the feedback because our goal, with your help, is to make sure that the abused, neglected or abandoned youth we serve overcome their obstacles to become productive citizens.

Take a look now and let me know what you think. You can reach me at: vicki_m@ettielee.org or by calling 626-960-4861.

Let us know now.

Thank you.

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October 22, 2007

Saving Lives, Changing Lives and Building Hope for children and families in family-like settings.



The residents of Ettie Lee's John Eccles home attended In-N-Out University. They learned all about their rich history and were rewarded with an In-N-Out lunch.

**There's an Ettie Lee Home near you: Azusa • Bloomington • Baldwin Park
Fontana (2) • North Hollywood • Redlands • San Jacinto • Santa Ana**


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Youth & Family Services
5146 North Maine Street
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