

ETTIE LEE'S FIRE RESIDE

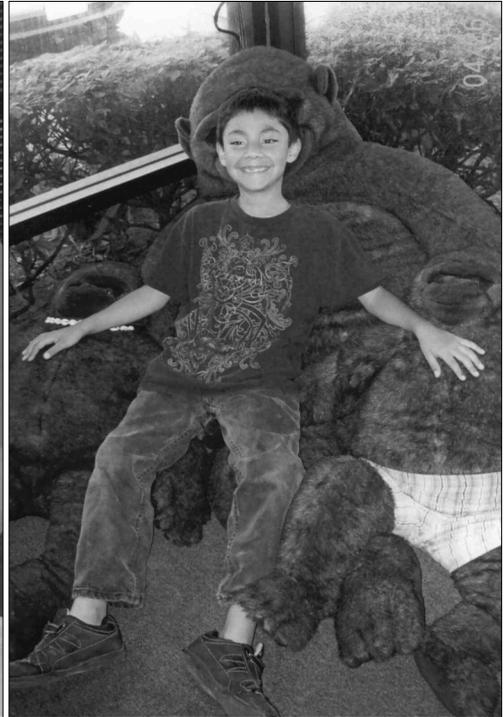
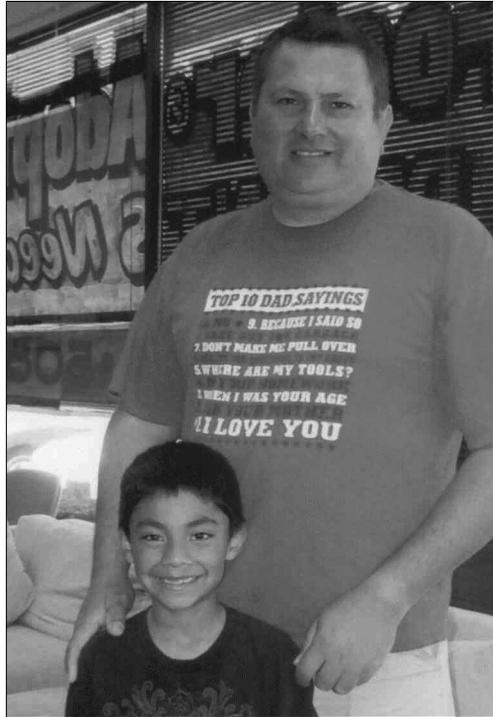
Saving Lives, Changing Lives and Building Hope for Children and Families in Family-Like Settings

October 2011

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
- Adoption Agency
- A network of more than 35 loving foster families
- On-site, fully-contained school
- Permanent placement for boys and girls of all ages
- Fully accredited substance abuse treatment
- Outpatient after-school mental health programs
- Evidence-based treatment programs
- After-Care program

SANTOS' New Life (and other stories!)



Santos and dad Kevin at a recent visit to Ettie Lee's foster family agency.

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

Recently Santos and Kevin stopped by. Santos was placed with Ettie Lee foster parents Kevin and Rose when he was just 2 years old. Prior to this he had been placed with 3 different families, but due to his frequent and violent tantrums the placements were not permanent. Kevin and Rose were willing to work with Santos and they ultimately made the decision to give Santos a permanent home when they adopted him at the age of 4. Santos is now a thriving, well-adjusted 8 year-old who is who is earning A's and B's at school.

Santos' sister was also adopted by another family and lives close by. Santos and his sister Marta have regular sibling visits. Marta's parents embrace the sibling relationship and have taken the siblings on outings such as ice-skating, and to their cabin in Big Bear.

During the visit, Santos' eyes lit up when talking about his parents and his sister's ice skating adventures. Dad's eyes lit up too!

See **SANTOS' NEW LIFE (AND OTHER STORIES)** page 2

From the President's Desk



Clayton Downey

Ettie Lee Youth and Family Services is well on its way to being accredited by the Council on Accreditation (COA) headquartered in New York City. COA is the accrediting body for behavioral healthcare and human service organizations. COA accreditation is a comprehensive process that evaluates every aspect of the organization, from leadership and governance to provision of services. The benefits of accreditation are numerous. Being accredited sends an important message, it tells our clients, staff, funders and other stakeholders that a neutral party organization has vetted Ettie Lee and found that it meets national best practice standards and can be trusted to deliver quality services. Accreditation aids in reinforcing our mission and goals that will allow Ettie Lee to continue to serve well into the future. It has been a lengthy and demanding process but one in which we never lost sight of the goal; achieving recognition of excellent services. I would like to commend and thank staff for their efforts, hard work and cooperation in assisting in launching this project forward. Accreditation is a learning process and one that will keep Ettie Lee on the path of continuous performance improvement.

SANTOS' NEW LIFE (AND OTHER STORIES) Continued from page 1

Recently Claudia Cuevas, Ettie Lee's Foster Family Intake Coordinator shared the story of Isaac. Isaac, 15½, was placed with long-time Ettie Lee foster parents Lynelle and Jim Weber several months ago. Although he required a lot of attention the Webers continued to work with him—making sure he did his homework, giving positive reinforcement and going out to enjoy themselves.

Now reunified with his family, and doing well, he speaks of the Webers frequently and positively. It's great to know that Isaac will look back at his time in an Ettie Lee Foster home with such good memories. Claudia says, "we may not have that many families but the families that we do have care so much about the kids. It makes me so proud to be a part of Ettie Lee."



It's been a long time since we have "employed" one of our residents at the Maine Office. Since January 31, 2011, Luis C., a John Eccles Home resident, has been working as an assistant at the Maine Office. After school, most every weekday, he is driven to the Maine office by a John Eccles staff member ready to work. He has assisted the development department in a wide range of projects as well as making sure the office is stocked with paper and water. At quitting time, he is picked up again by an Eccles staff member and brought home. The staff has reported that he became part of the fabric of the office. "On Monday we talk about our weekends with Luis and he tells us about his," says Vicki, "and when he arrives after school he lets James know how his day went." Then Luis gets down to his tasks. Under James' supervision, Luis has even started to get familiar with Microsoft Word, PowerPoint and Excel.

When asked what he liked best about coming to the Maine Office, Luis remarked "I love to work hard and it makes me feel proud to know that everyone thinks I am a responsible person that they can trust."

We really like having Luis around too! Thank you Luis for all of your hard work.

Luis returned home in mid August and we really miss him.



Last week two students were reprimanded after they tagged the van that they ride to and from school in. Unfortunately that's not unusual, however, what happened next was...they offered to clean up the tagging and they even went further...they apologized to all of the residents and staff for their behavior. This is growth! Hats off to the Mt. J. staff who have been such good role models for them!



It's never too late to graduate!!!! Anthony A. was close to graduating a couple of months ago...but those last few credits were difficult for him. He worked really hard and staff was supportive and kept him motivated. As a result he finished his last credit yesterday. Quite an accomplishment for a young man, (he just turned 18), who since the age of 2 has been in foster care, experienced runnin's with the law. Since he just finished high school he's not sure about college right now, what he is sure about is that he really wants to get a job.

He will, however, be able to attend the formal graduation ceremony in November where in a cap and gown would walk down the aisle to the traditional graduation march or maybe to Boston's "Don't Look Back"!

Congratulations Anthony!, and, to all of the staff (including OFL) who worked so hard with Anthony to get him to this place.

Be A Foster Parent !
(626) 967-5082
 Ettie Lee Youth & Family Services

Every Picture Tells A Story



A Cal State Los Angeles Representative assists youth that participated in Ettie Lee's and Opportunities for Learning career fair on September 30, 2011.



Ettie Lee's Senior Child Care Worker for Brandes Home, Steve Lechuga (l) and Ettie Lee's Development Director Vicki Mastro (r) said thank you to Nordstrom Rack West Covina's Manager Erin Hall (center) for their volunteer efforts at the Brandes home.

Pictures below give a glimpse of the day of painting with our friends from Nordstrom Rack, Westfield Mall in West Covina.



Visit us ONLINE @ www.ettielee.org

Mac Whittle's Eagle Scout Project



According to the Boy Scouts of America, Eagle Scouts are recognized as a group of men who are outstanding in all that Scouting represents. It is only after each scout has earned the Life Scout rank that they are ready to begin the Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project. After a brainstorming session with Ettie Lee staff in early April MacLean Whittle chose Ettie Lee for his Leadership Service Project. The project—making blankets for the Ettie Lee's residents.

In July Mac arrived with his family—Mom, (Vicki), Dad (Randy) and sister Brittany. They delivered more than 50 blankets to the at-risk youth of Ettie Lee. Randy proudly shared the before, during, and after pictures of Mac, friends and family as they measured, cut, tied and folded the blankets. This picture shows Mac and his blankets on the day they were delivered. Each of the residents at the home picked out their very own blanket—something that many of them had never experienced.

Very sadly, in August, after visiting Brigham Young University (the school Mac was hoping to attend) the Whittle's private plane crashed shortly after take off. The Whittle family was memorialized on August 23.



Big Sunday volunteers, Justin, Lisa, Pilar, Ken and Bobbie came out on Sunday May 15th in the rain. They painted two visitation rooms and the social worker's office. FFA now has a green room, blue room and a brown room. Thank you volunteers!



In July, Friends of Foster Children's President Susan Wittmer, (second from right) and Steven Wittmer (second from left) were honored by Ettie Lee's Board Chairman Ron Bateman (r) and President/CEO Clayton Downey (l).

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Martie Wells

Ettie Lee 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.



WISH LIST

(new or gently used items are accepted)

Household items

- Throw rugs for bedrooms
- Light switch covers for bedrooms
- Pictures for bathroom walls
- Shower mats
- Blankets for twin beds
- Alarm clocks
- Books for boys age 8-17
- Pillows and Pillow protectors
- Gift cards for book stores
- Couches
- Board Games
- Pool sticks

Personal Items

- Wall posters for bedrooms
- White towels and wash cloths
- Beach Towels
- Sun Block
- Hygiene supplies
- Super Cuts gift certificates
- Backpacks
- Prepaid phone cards
- Hand held electronic games
- CD players
- Grey undershirts (all sizes)
- Gift cards to clothes and shoe stores

Outdoor Activitites

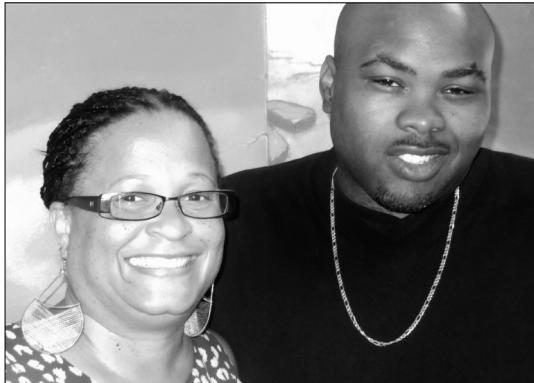
- Sports equipment
(excluding baseball bats)
- Karate, Music or Art Lessons
- Ping Pong Tables

Fun Things To Do

Art supplies
Movie theater passes
.....
This is just a partial list!
*If you have an idea but don't know if we could use it, please call **Vicki Mastro** 626-960-4861. Thanks so much.*

Former Resident Pamaris Howard Says *Thank You!*

Recently Pamaris Howard, came by to visit with Ettie Lee managers to say thank you. Now 31, Pamaris was 14 years old when he was placed with Ettie Lee. He had been in residential care since he was 7. He remembers his stay at Ettie Lee's Mt. J. Fontana and Diamond L homes fondly and feels fortunate to have been taken out of his home in



Pamaris (r) poses with Nola Jones.

South Central Los Angeles in the 1990's and placed with Ettie Lee when his parents were no longer to care for him and his siblings. He credits his success with the care and support he received from Ettie Lee staff members—Nola Jones and Wendell Williams—who he said, just by showing that they cared, made all the difference in the world to him. He graduated Bloomington High, went to Fresno State and is now self-employed promotional manager.

Help Ettie Lee Youth & Family Services do what they do best:
Help Children!



Do you know anyone who is interested in becoming a foster parent? Help Ettie Lee recruit foster parents by referring a potential foster parent. They can be a friend, a relative or an acquaintance. Once they become fully certified and a child is placed in their home, YOU will receive a \$300.00 bonus.

All you have to do is refer them to the agency and be sure they give us your name. That's it! We will do the rest.

If you have additional questions, please contact Carol Tula at **626-967-5082**

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Proceeds can benefit:

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Ettie Lee Youth & Family Services is a tax exempt 501(c)(3) organization.

To contact us, call 626-960-4861.

Ettie Lee operates in the counties of Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Orange and Riverside.



We are excited about the upcoming **4TH ANNUAL eBay AUCTION** We already have many goodies for you to bid on!

- ➔ The Auction will again be held in November over a period of several weeks
- ➔ Check our website and social networks as it gets closer. We will have all the information for you there
- ➔ If you're interested in donating items for our auction we would love to hear from you!
 - ➔ Contact james_r@ettielee.org or 626-960-4861

Here is a look at some of the 2011 donors



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Support Ettie Lee Youth & Family Services—place a bumper sticker just like this on your car. Contact James and he'll send one (or more!) to you... 626-960-4861 or james_r@ettielee.org

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