



ETTIE LEE
Youth & Family Services



08-09
Annual Report

Celebrating 60 Years 1950





Clayton Downey

“ I always felt that you could help a child start over in his adolescent years. ”

- Ettie Lee

Ron Bateman



Dear Supporters and Friends,

We are delighted to welcome you to the 2008-09 edition of our annual report. As the Chairman and President / CEO of Ettie Lee Youth & Family Services, we see the extraordinary excellence of this agency. It's seen every day in the high quality of service our staff provides for the vulnerable youngsters that come through our doors.

We want to highlight the importance of the thoughtfulness of donors just like you who enable us to extend Ettie Lee's mission. Our deepest thanks to you. Your support allows us to provide the much-needed services that these troubled youngsters need and deserve.

It has not been easy—especially this year as we grappled with yet additional funding challenges. The environment in which non-profits provide services has become most daunting. As our economy struggles clear across this great land, we see the federal government, state government and county governments cutting back on funding and services for children in need of support. These cutbacks have had a major influence on how Ettie Lee Youth & Family Services provides programs and services for youth.

But you have come through. Our staff has come through. Last year we were able to serve more than 355 abused, abandoned and neglected youth because, since 1950, it has been our unwavering mission...the mission of Miss Ettie Lee.

As we celebrate our 60th anniversary this year, we will continue to be there for the youth and their families. We care about them, respect them, we will be good role models for them, and teach them techniques to manage their lives as they go out into the world. This way, all of us will be Saving Lives, Changing Lives and Building Hope for children and families in family-like settings.

As we conclude our year, we remain grateful to our families, partners and supporters for your continued commitment to help the youth in our communities. Together we can Celebrate our Success and Tackle our Challenges.


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Celebrating Success

Celebrating Success



Spencer at graduation.

I am eight credits away from graduating from high school. Last year at this time, I was selling drugs and getting high, but now I have completed all of the other requirements in order to graduate including passing the High School Exit Exam and Community Service hours.

When I came to Ettie Lee all I wanted to do was go home, but now I have a plan. I have been selected as one of my graduation days speakers and then during the summer I am going to go to my junior college, then onto a 4-year school.

I am so grateful to the staff at Ettie Lee for helping to get me motivated and on the right track.

Spencer, age 17

My son, Spencer, was a resident at the Ettie Lee house in Fontana (Mt. Jurupa) for six months. He arrived there angry, unhappy, and lost. My wife and I could neither have a civil conversation with him, nor could we exercise any control of his comings and goings. As the months passed, we began to see a very profound change in his attitude and outlook on life. Suddenly he was interested in following the rules, helping other residents to stay out of trouble, and succeeding at school. It is my belief that the tough love and structured day-to-day routine that the Ettie Lee house staff provided was just what Spencer needed to find his way out of the lifestyle that he had gotten so lost in. Spencer arrived at Mt. Jurupa with his last report card containing all F's. When he left, he had completed all the required credits for him to be able to graduate high school -- which he did -- and is now attending our local community college. What does Spencer want to do with his future? He wants to be a therapist, probation officer, lawyer, accountant -- the list goes on and on. I cannot properly express my gratitude for the second life he has been afforded. I truly believe that his life has been saved.

Brad, Spencer's Dad

**All of the stories are in the youth's own words. All names, except Spencer's have been changed to protect their privacy.*

About two months into my drug program at Ettie Lee, I was ready to stop smoking pot and getting mad at every little thing. I asked my therapist for some more help and she and I came up with journaling and working on my art. Monkeys are my favorite animals and I started drawing a lot of pictures of monkeys. When I graduated from the program I went to live with my dad in another state and I have kept out of trouble ever since.

Gary, age 15

The staff at Ettie Lee really believed in me. They had to because I was so negative and disruptive for the first four months while living there. When I first came my therapist got me on medication which helped me to focus. I guess then I started doing my

school work more. I was also meeting with Ettie Lee's therapist almost every day. Of course I wanted to go home at six months, but the judge said that he thought it would be better if I had more time at Ettie Lee. So during the next three months I didn't use any drugs any more when I went home on pass and I started doing even better in school. (Marcus was earning above average grades and turning in more than the minimum credits). My mom even began to work with the Ettie Lee staff on how she could help me out when I went home. I have been at home for 2 weeks now and I have enrolled in school. I am really happy to be home and I want to thank the staff for helping me out.

Marcus, age 15



I have been using drugs since I was 11 and I came to Ettie Lee when I was 15 because I got caught for using. Drugs always made me forget about the bad things in my life, but at Ettie Lee they are teaching me other ways to cope with all of the bad things. I haven't used drugs for 3 months and I think I will be able get a weekend home pass.

Greg, age 16



I started Ettie Lee's mental health and drug and alcohol services as soon as I got there. I also needed to catch up on my high school credits. I had to decide to make better choices or I was going to wind up like my best friend who died from a gun shot. I was able to look at things in a different way with the support of the Ettie Lee staff and my family. I took part in so many drug and alcohol sessions and individual and family therapy sessions that I lost count. I attended school and stayed drug free. And, luckily my family was able to move to a new neighborhood right before I left Ettie Lee.

Brian, age 16

"I want to thank Ettie Lee for helping my son. I knew that if he stayed on the streets he was going to die by a bullet."

- Mother of Graduate



I really had a hard time after my mom died. My dad was clueless and I started to act out. That's why I am here at Ettie Lee. I stopped going to school, but now I am working hard so that I can graduate middle school on time.

Michael, age 14



My brother and I were taken away from our mom because she used drugs and didn't take care of us. First though we went with my uncle but he abused us.

Now that we are with our foster parents we always get to school on time and always have dinner. I am getting good grades in school and so is my brother. We also get to play sports.

Our foster parents would like to be our guardians if my aunt doesn't do it, but we would like to stay with our foster parents.

Emilio, age 13 and Sam, age 12

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