

Ettie Lee's **FIRE**SIDE

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

Fall 2013

Ettie Lee's fully accredited, restorative programs serving at-risk, abused, abandoned and neglected children and youth include:

- Foster Family/Adoption Agency (in a network of 40 loving foster homes)
- Intensive Treatment Foster Care (ITFC)
- Nurturing, Caring Group Homes (6) for Youth (ages 10-21)
- Outpatient Mental Health Services
- State Certified Drug and Alcohol Treatment Program
- Therapeutic Behavioral Services (TBS)
- After-Care Services

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



Congratulations ANTONIO!



Here's Antonio Garcia on graduation day with Melanie Beck a Senior Child Care Worker at Ettie Lee Youth & Family Services. Antonio graduated from Beaumont High School in June.

Antonio recently completed a major milestone in his life—He's a High School graduate! And, it happened because his Ettie Lee "family" was right there for him each step of the way. His Ettie Lee family has been motivating and encouraging him since he arrived more than 18 months ago at the age of 16. Now 18, and on the road to transitional housing, it was even more important than ever for Antonio to earn his High School Diploma. But he was 5 credits shy one month before graduation. Staff members Melanie and Patrick and his tutor really got into high gear to ensure Antonio would complete the needed credits. Antonio finally was able to do the work he was putting off—just in time to get it to the district office who processed it for him expeditiously.



From the President's Desk



Terri Varnum, M.A.

Recently I attended the California Utah Women (CUW) fundraising luncheon benefiting Ettie Lee Youth & Family

Services—along with other senior staff and board members. It was truly an event to remember. The grand banquet room at the Disneyland Hotel was filled with women (and a few men) who volunteer their time and treasures to help our kids find a way to build a better life for themselves. Many of them have been supporting Ettie Lee for decades. It was a humbling experience to be with them and experience their very real commitment to our work.

The entertainment portion of the program was also inspiring. Seventy-five performers from The Great All American Youth Circus (www.ycircus.org) dazzled the audience with their show. Some of the acts showcased amazing physical capability, and ALL of them showed us the power of mindfulness. While watching the jugglers I couldn't help but imagine what could be accomplished with a complete focus on the present.

And so I encourage our staff to be fully present, "to pay attention, non-judgmentally, to the present moment, about living in the moment, experiencing one's emotions and senses fully, yet with perspective (en.wikipedia.org)."

I've tried many times to learn to juggle and have failed each time. This ability to be fully present, mindful, is something we need to (I need to) continue to work toward. Maybe I'll try again to learn to juggle, this time being fully conscious, thoughtful, attentive and aware. I can't help but wonder about the possibilities!

Intensive Treatment Foster Care

The goal of Ettie Lee's Intensive Treatment Foster Care Team of Jennifer Yang and Debbie Henderson is to recruit at least 12 Intensive Treatment Foster Families in the next three months—as of this writing 3 children are now in an Intensive Treatment Foster Home and 4 certified homes are waiting for a child and 4 homes are awaiting final clearance! These are extraordinary individuals who will make an important commitment to changing the life of one child—as an Intensive Treatment Foster Parent.



Jennifer Yang and Debbie Henderson are leading the effort to build Ettie Lee's ITFC program.

Intensive Treatment Foster Parents receive training and support from Ettie Lee's qualified professional staff. This leads to becoming a Certified Intensive Treatment Foster Parent.

Interested? Your focus will be on one child—who will have the chance to thrive with the special attention, skill, and patience that you have to offer. Your investment will be great, the expectations are high, and the rewards come from the knowledge that you have made a real difference.

Children six to 17 years of age who find themselves in Intensive Treatment Foster Care have serious emotional challenges and often have spent many years in many different group-homes.

Coming to Ettie Lee, these children receive careful attention and are matched with right the foster parent(s).

The program offers the team approach to treatment with the foster parent(s) as a part of the treatment team. A support counselor offers individualized counseling and emotional support, mentoring, and modeling skills for both the child and foster parent(s). Foster parents in this program receive a higher reimbursement rate for the care.

Be A Foster Parent

Call Monica 626-967-5082
Se Habla Español

Ask About Our Foster Parent Referral Program. You Can Help Recruit AND Earn \$300!!!

ETTIE LEE
Youth & Family Services
754 E. Arrow Highway #F
Covina, CA 91722
(626) 967-5082 www.ettielee.org

Picked up and moved in...

Our Heartfelt Thanks to

THE AHMANSON FOUNDATION

Placed and ready to enjoy.

Enjoying!

Our thanks to The Ahmanson Foundation who funded the purchase of new couches for all our group homes.

Visit us ONLINE @
www.ettielee.org

Every Picture Tells A Story



Ettie Lee Board Member, Walt Allen, Mayor of Covina, is interviewed during the Covina Police Memorial Ceremony on May 14, 2013.



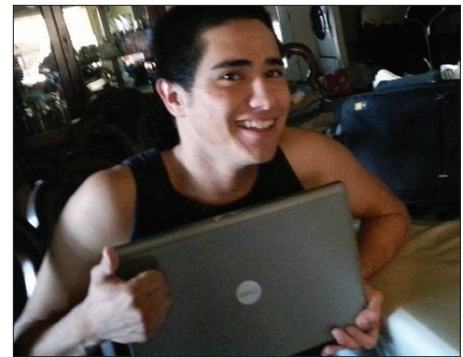
This year, the great folks at Big Sunday hosted a Foster Parent Appreciation Dinner at The Knights of Columbus—all with a Cinco de Mayo theme. JoAnn Gilmore (not pictured) coordinated the volunteers from Parsons.



Chris Lee, was a resident at Ettie Lee's North Hollywood home in 1996. He served as an airplane mechanic in the Navy and is now attending school to earn his MSW. It's always great when former residents check in with us! Chris is seen here visiting Ettie Lee's Pomona site several months ago. From left to the right are current and former staff members Bonnie Williams, Patrick Williams, Chris Lee, Nola Jones and Karen Turner.



Ettie Lee is now a member of the El Monte/South El Monte Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber's membership Director Christ Knight (r), presents Ettie Lee's membership plaque to Ettie Lee's Director of Development, Vicki Mastro.



Jose Maciel is a recent high school graduate who was awarded a laptop computer for his achievement. Congratulations to Jose who is now enrolled at Mt. San Antonio College! Jose plans on majoring in engineering. Ettie Lee's Laptop to Graduates Program is funded by Friends of Foster Children. Each laptop comes with Microsoft Office Home & Student and a carrying case. Ettie Lee and Friends of Foster Children have been able to award 13 laptops to deserving youth.



Ettie Lee Foster Care, Adoption and Intensive Foster Care team take time to celebrate the rewarding yet difficult work they do during a working lunch. From left to right are: Karen Cash, Jennifer Yang, Monica Moreira, Debbie Henderson, Claudia Cuevas, Zeyda Newman, Ann Marie Valenzuela, Carol Tula and Ettie Lee's President & CEO Terri Varnum. Angie Vernon, another member of the team, is not pictured.



Former Ettie Lee resident Joe Stewart and his girlfriend dropped off clothing and toys last month. Thank you Joe!



Friends of Foster Children's Susan Wittmer (l) and Steven Wittmer (r) greet Ettie Lee's President & CEO during their annual gathering in March.



Ettie Lee's Director of Foster Care and Adoptions, Karen Cash (r) with Sylvia Padilla of Friends of the Heart. Sylvia and Friends of the Heart lovingly prepare a welcome kit for Ettie Lee's clients.



Ettie Lee's Director of Residential Care, Rick Myatt (l), Director of Quality Assurance and Staff Development, Karen Turner and Child Care Assistant Senior, Steve Lechuga (r).



We are excited about the upcoming **6TH ANNUAL eBay AUCTION** We already have many goodies for you to bid on!

- ➔ The Auction will be held **November 4 - 22, 2013**
- ➔ 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 Vicki_m@ettielee.org or 626-960-4861

Here is a look at some of the 2013 donors



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Baldwin Park • Covina • Fontana (2) • Pomona • Redlands

ETTIE LEE Youth & Family Services
5146 North Maine Street
P.O. Box 339
Baldwin Park, CA 91706-0339

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

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