

Ettie Lee Youth & Family Services



Contact:
Vicki Mastro
626/960-4861
vicki_m@ettielee.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**FREE ARTS FOR ABUSED CHILDREN and
ETTIE LEE YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES
JOIN FORCES FOR ABUSED, NEGLECTED AND ABANDONED YOUTH**
Abused, neglected and abandoned children will work thru obstacles with art

April 2, 2007 – On April 7, 2007 more than 40 abused, neglected and abandoned children will gather to create “bunny” puppets, build Easter baskets and decorate cookies and flower pots with the supportive and caring volunteers of Free Arts for Abused Children. The children will arrive at Ettie Lee’s Foster Family Agency on Arrow Highway at 10 a.m. for a few hours that will be filled with food, fun and healing.

Free Arts for Abused Children is a nonprofit organization that integrates the healing and therapeutic power of the arts into the lives of children and youth who have been abused or families who have been designated as “at risk”. This event is made possible by a generous gift from the Mark C. Lemons Foundation.

“Artistic expression builds confidence and self-esteem in children,” says Lisa Flores Program Manager of Free Arts for Abused Children. “We are most anxious to bring our volunteers to Ettie Lee so that we can help these children heal thru art.”

For the past 56 years Ettie Lee Youth & Family Services has served at-risk youth. Last year Ettie Lee served 271 unduplicated children: 197 boys age 8-18 in nine group homes and 74 boys and girls age 0-18 in 35 foster homes; 46% were Hispanic, 32% African-American, 16% Caucasian, 2% Asian/Pacific Islander, 4% mixed ethnicity; and over 97% were from low-income and/or disadvantaged families.

Ettie Lee operates a Foster Family Agency in Covina on Arrow Highway. It is specially licensed to find safe, loving homes for abused, abandoned and neglected children and to provide the children with therapeutic and other support services they need to heal.

Ettie Lee also operates group homes whose expertise is in serving older children – teenage boys (aged 13-18) – who are on probation. All of group homes are located in residential and semi-residential areas and provide family-style residential treatment that focuses on the importance of being active in the community to develop the skills for success in life.

Ettie Lee Youth & Family Services is a nonprofit child welfare agency serving the complex needs of at-risk youth who have been abused, neglected or abandoned. Its mission is to assist troubled youth who are in need of guidance and support to develop values and skills that will facilitate their success in life. Ettie Lee complies with the highest standards of Community Care Licensing, Los Angeles County Department of Children & Family Services, and Los Angeles County Department of Probation. Ettie Lee is accredited by the California Alliance for Children & Families and the Council on Accreditation.