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FIRST ADOPTION FINALIZED BY ETTIE LEE YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES

La Puente residents Rebecca and Vincent Jaramillo adopt second child—Nathan— a two year old boy!

Adoption was final on February 20, 2008

Rebecca and Vincent Jaramillo of La Puente know well the challenges of being parents. They are completely involved in the lives of their older children, a boy 21 and a girl 14 – whether it's as the president of the PTA or on the sports field.

But something was missing. "I always wanted a bigger family," Rebecca remarked. One day she saw an Ettie Lee ad in the Penny Saver and called. "We took the Ettie Lee trainings and became certified foster parents." Shortly after becoming certified in February 2006, Jocelyn, now age three and a half came to live with the Jaramillo's as a foster child. The Jaramillo's wanted to adopt her. Her adoption, through Department of Children and Family Services, was final in April 2007. A few months later, Nathan, age two, joined the family as a foster child. One month later, he came up for adoption. The Jaramillo's jumped at the chance to adopt him. Nathan is now three years old.

At the County Courthouse yesterday, in Monterey Park, Nathan beaming in a tie and a vest just like his daddy, exclaimed, "My name is Nathan Jaramillo." His new mom, Rebecca said she was very pleased with the way Ettie Lee assisted her through out the adoption process. She is even thinking about adopting a third child, "If the right child comes along and I fall in love again," said Jaramillo.

For the past 57 years Ettie Lee Youth & Family has served at-risk youth. Last year Ettie Lee served 402 unduplicated children and their families: 287 boys age 8-18 in nine group homes and 115 boys and girls age 0-18 in 49 foster homes; 68% were Hispanic, 20% African-American, 10% Caucasian, 2% Asian/Pacific Islander; and over 97% were from low-income and/or disadvantaged families.

Ettie Lee's Foster Family Agency is 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). All of group homes are located in residential and semi-residential areas and provide family-style residential treatment that focuses on the importance of preparing to return to the family and community.

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.