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AZUSA MAYOR JOE ROCHA AND COUNCILMAN ROBERT GONZALES SHOW THEIR SUPPORT AT BIG SUNDAY PROJECT FOR ETTIE LEE YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES

Gigantic, 2-day Volunteer Effort, Celebrates 10 years of Service

May 6, 2008 – On Saturday May 3 more than thirty Big Sunday volunteers came out in full force to Ettie Lee’s residential group home in Azusa. Big Sunday is the largest community service event in the nation. Over the course of two days, dozens of non-profits and thousands of volunteers across the greater L.A. area came to serve and build community.

Big Sunday projects, which number about 300, vary greatly. Examples include painting homes, creating murals, taking homeless persons and at-risk youth horseback riding, sprucing up non-profit facilities, knitting caps for those undergoing chemotherapy, and raising money for various groups through car washes and lemonade stands.

Lifetime Azusa residents, Mayor Joe Rocha and Councilman Robert Gonzales toured the facility – inside and out. Mayor Rocha was impressed with the work that was taking place at the Oak Knolls Home. “Everyone there was working so hard for the common goal of sprucing up the home for the boys that live there,” he said. More than thirty volunteers from Mosaic Inland Church, Glendora and Biola University signed up to build a vegetable garden, paint two offices and landscape. Sandy Cobos, project manager for the day coordinated all elements of the Oak Knolls projects since March. “I am so glad that we were able to build a beautiful vegetable garden for the boys at Oak Knolls,” said Cobos. “It will really give the residents a whole new experience as they tend to the garden over the next several weeks,” she continued.

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 our nine group homes and 115 boys and girls age 0 – 18 in our 49 foster homes which are located in Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino counties. 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/Adoption 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's residential group homes expertise is in serving older children – teenage boys (aged 13-18) – who are on probation. All of group homes are located in 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.

All funds to complete these projects have been donated by the Big Sunday organization. “Last year more than 50,000 people from across the city turned out to perform acts of community service,” said David Levinson, Associate Director and Founder of Big Sunday. “Volunteers whose ranks represent almost every race, religion, ethnicity and socio-economic background in the city that ranges from Santa Monica to the Inland Empire.”

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.