

ETTIE LEE YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MURALIST ERIN HUNT TO LEAD MURAL PROJECT AT ETTIE LEE YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES, FONTANA **As part of the WEEKEND'S BIG SUNDAY PROJECT** *Gigantic, 2-day Volunteer Effort, Celebrates 11 years of Service*

April 30, 2009 – On Saturday May 2 more than thirty Big Sunday volunteers will come out in full force to Ettie Lee's group home in Fontana. 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 will gather to serve and build community.

Big Sunday Inland Empire Coordinator Sandy Cobos is looking forward to the weekend. "One of the highlights of the weekend will be the mural that will come to life on Saturday at Ettie Lee's Home on Jurupa in Fontana," said Cobos. Artist, Erin Hunt, a high school teacher in Sun Valley has designed the mural that will span forty feet. Says, Hunt, "The mural combines a positive message of peace, hope, love and faith and it depicts some of the many faces of Southern California's youth."

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.

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.

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.