## ETTIE LEE YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES



Contact: Vicki Mastro 626/960-4861 vicki\_m@ettielee.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## MAY IS FOSTER CARE MONTH ETTIE LEE YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES WANTS TO RAISE AWARENESS

May 1, 2009 – In an effort to raise awareness, for the thousands of children in foster care, Ettie Lee Youth & Family Services is holding a new pajama and book drive during the month of May 2009.

In partnership with the Pajama Program, beginning on May 1 and ending on May 31, Ettie Lee Youth & Family Services on Arrow Highway will accept your donation of new pajamas and books for needy foster children.

Ettie Lee and the Pajama Program would like to make a difference in the lives of foster children, many of who are waiting and hoping to be adopted. These are youngsters who may not know the comforts of a mother or father to tuck them into a cozy bed and read them a bedtime story.

For the past 59 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 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.