

## ETTIE LEE YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **ETTIE LEE PARTNERS WITH CARS 4 CAUSES**

*Proceeds from vehicles support Ettie Lee and others – helps clean the air*

June 8, 2009 – Ettie Lee Youth & Family Services has partners with Cars 4 Causes, one of the leading vehicle donation organizations in the nation.

Cars 4 Causes, is a charity that gives to charity. In doing so, Cars 4 Causes has contributed more than \$20 million to benefit more than 11,000 charities – one of them being Ettie Lee Youth & Family Services – all from the proceeds of vehicle donations. Cars 4 Causes also operates a Clean Air Program. They recycle cars that are uneconomical to repair, cannot meet smog requirements, and just cannot be upgraded into affordable transportation. To date Cars 4 Causes has taken approximately 20,000 such cars off the road. A great public service.

Ettie Lee's group home focus is on serving older boys than other child welfare agencies, most of whom are on probation. These are very troubled children with severe and complex problems due to their chaotic histories of trying to live with their own dysfunctional families. An advantage of our group homes is they provide structured, family-style residential living. All are located in residential and semi-residential areas. Emphasizing a homelike atmosphere lets our boys experience what home living should be, minimizes the stigma of residential care and makes them feel as much as possible similar to their peers who live with their own families, but it creates enormous transportation problems.

For the past 59 years Ettie Lee Youth & Family has served at-risk youth. Last year Ettie Lee served 355 unduplicated boys and girls and their families: 62% were Hispanic, 24% African-American, 11.4% Caucasian, 1.4% Asian/Pacific Islander; .3% American Indian; .9% other and over 97% were from low-income and/or disadvantaged families. Ettie Lee operates nine group homes in Southern California and a Foster Family / Adoption Agency.

*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.*

*Since its inception in 1998 Opportunities for Learning has grown to operate 37 individual campuses under the umbrella of three charters. The founders John and Joan Hall are pioneers who formerly worked in the Los Angeles Unified School District. Over the last 15 years, they have helped thousands of students realize their educational goals.*