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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WALTER S. JOHNSON SUPPORTS ETTIE LEE YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES

August 25, 2009 – Ettie Lee Youth & Family Services announces the receipt of a \$6,000 grant from the Walter S. Johnson Foundation, Menlo Park, California to support our programs for at-risk youth. The Foundation has pledged support for more than 16 years.

For nearly 60 years Ettie Lee has served the complex needs of at-risk youth with emotional and behavioral problems and their families in Southern California. When Miss Ettie Lee opened the first group home in 1950 she introduced the model of providing a family atmosphere. Although Ettie Lee has grown significantly since 1950, providing a family atmosphere has been so successful that we still follow that model in all of our nine group homes and 30 foster homes. 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'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.

Ettie Lee also operates a therapeutic Foster Family Agency and Adoption Agency. It is located in Covina.

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.