

ETTIE LEE YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Director of Ettie Lee's Foster Family/Adoption Agency Named

March 10, 2010 - Karen Cash has been named as the new director of Ettie Lee Youth & Family Services' Foster Family / Adoption Agency located in Covina California.

In making the announcement, President & CEO of Ettie Lee Youth & Family Services, Clayton Downey, said Karen brings a huge knowledge base and experience to Ettie Lee Foster Family / Adoption program.

"I look forward to this opportunity of working with our children and their birth parents. The goal for most foster children at Ettie Lee Youth and Family Services," says Karen Cash, "is to be reunited with their birth parents."

"Children that enter the foster care system have been abused, neglected, or abandoned and may have special needs, as well," continues Cash, "Ettie Lee recognizes the importance of family and strives to maintain children in their biological homes."

When that is not possible, the child is placed in a foster home or kinship care-- always with the objective of reuniting him with his/her family. "It is only when the reunification is not possible that Ettie Lee looks for a permanent placement, such as adoption," Cash said. Ettie Lee especially needs foster families that can care for infants and teens, she said. A majority of children in foster care are older, many are teenagers.

In our community and around the Nation there is a great need for this important children's service. National child maltreatment estimates for Federal fiscal year 2007 show that:

- An estimated 794,000 children were victims of maltreatment;
- The rate of victimization was 10.6 per 1,000 children in the population; and
- More than 3.5 million children received Child Protective Services investigations or assessments.

In 2008, Ettie Lee had 76 children in the program of whom 39 were male and 37 were female. The average age was 9.1 years and the ethnic breakdown was 65 percent Latin surname, 13 percent African American, and 17 percent Caucasian. Our caseload includes the foster families, siblings and others who are significant in each child's life. Therefore, one child could involve at minimum four adults resulting in complex network of relationships management.

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.