

## ETTIE LEE YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**VOLUNTEERS FROM KAISER PERMANENTE  
Plus others.... TO PARTICIPATE IN BIG SUNDAY WEEKEND  
WITH ETTIE LEE YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES**  
*Gigantic, 2-day Volunteer Effort, Celebrates 12 years of Service*

April 30, 2010 – On Saturday May 1 volunteers from Kaiser Permanente and other volunteers will gather at Ettie Lee's group home in Fontana and San Jacinto to build community through community service. 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's David Levinson, Associate Director and Founder of Big Sunday, was the latest recipient of the "Governor and First Lady's Medal for Service: Nonprofit Leader of the Year," State of California, 2009.

The volunteers at Ettie Lee's Fontana facility will be marking the outdoor basketball court and painting a mosaic and the volunteers at the San Jacinto facility will be planting 20 perimeter, privacy bushes.

Last year, artist Erin Hunt, a high school teacher in Sun Valley has designed a 40' mural at another one of Ettie Lee homes in Fontana that depicts 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 60 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 Levinson. “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.*