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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**ETTIE LEE YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES  
ANNOUNCES SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN  
HIGH SCHOOL CREDITS EARNED**

*Ettie Lee and education partner, Opportunities for Learning, announce increase in  
High School credits earned*

May 2010 – For the latest semester ending December 30, 2009, on average, the students attending the on-grounds school at Ettie Lee Youth & Family Services have earned 10.74 credits per month. Students at a traditional public school, based on 9 month school year earn 6.11 credits – or 75.6% less credits per month.

It is anticipated that during the next semester, January 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010 the student's credits will continue to rise.

Clayton L. Downey, President & CEO of Ettie Lee, remarked that, "These outcomes are a testament to our unwavering commitment to make sure the youth we serve receive a high school education. We do not want our youth to become statistics." On April 26<sup>th</sup> KPCC reported that 94% of homicide victims under the age of 25 were high school drop outs and that 75% of California's inmates are high school dropouts (Small, April 26, 2010).

Ettie Lee Youth & Family Services, in contracting with the Los Angeles Probation Department, serves 88 young men, 8 - 17 in a highly-structured residential program that provides 24/7 care. Using four evidence-based treatment models, in addition to an on-grounds school, Ettie Lee provides an intensive day program which includes a State Certified Substance Abuse Prevention and Control Program.

Ettie Lee is Probation's agency of choice for young men, age 8-17 because, "Ettie Lee does what works by giving the young men the skills they need to be at home, in school and out of trouble," says Downey.

"Since implementing an evidence-based behavior therapy program five years ago, we have experienced great outcomes among our young men," continued Downey, "and we are fortunate to be able to work with Probation and Opportunities for Learning as Ettie Lee fulfills its mission of Saving Lives, Changing Lives and Building Hope for children and families in family-like settings."

Ettie Lee Youth & Family Services was established in 1950 as a non-sectarian, nonprofit child welfare agency to serve abused, neglected and emotionally disturbed youths and their families. It operates a co-occurring disorders program of nine group homes, foster family/adoption agency and intensive day program. Its mission is to assist troubled youths who are in need of guidance and support to develop values and skills that will facilitate their success in life. 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.

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*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.*