

Ettie Lee's **FIRE**SIDE

Saving Lives, Changing Lives and Building Hope for Children and Families in Family-Like Settings

Fall 2014

Ettie Lee's fully accredited, restorative programs serving at-risk, abused, abandoned and neglected children, youth and their families:

- Foster Family/Adoption Agency (in a network of 40 loving foster homes)
- Intensive Treatment Foster Care (ITFC)
- Nurturing, Caring Group Homes (6) for Youth (ages 10-21)
- Mental Health Services
- State Certified Substance Use Disorder Program
- Therapeutic Behavioral Services (TBS)
- After-Care Services
- Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment

Just Like the Tin Man



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Remember Ettie Lee Youth & Family Services when you designate your United Way gift.



When Tim, 14, came to live in Ettie Lee's Diamond L home one year ago, one of his motto's was: Don't Trust Anyone. He was a defiant and angry young teenager who was not able to make it in a foster home-he and his sister were in foster care because their mother was a prostitute and their dad a drug addict. Tim was doing very poorly in school, smoking marijuana and not bathing regularly. In Ettie Lee's group home, Tim, with the supportive help of Ettie Lee's staff, has been able to address his drug use, his defiance, bring up his grades and maintain his hygiene. "He did not make it easy," remarked Jacqueline Fuller, Drug and Alcohol Counselor, "but after 4 months," Fuller says, "his heart just melted-just like the Tin Man in The Wizard of Oz!"

Tim is doing so well that he will begin to assist the staff by becoming a mentor to young men who are new to Ettie Lee's program.

This October, Tim, who has learned to be much more trusting especially with adults, will be celebrating his one year Drug/Alcohol anniversary. Tim's grades are up, his attitude has changed and his goal is to be able to live once again in a foster home. He probably will never be able to live with his biological parents. Also, during his time at Ettie Lee, with the encouragement of Ettie Lee staff, Tim has discovered his love of reading, sports and helping others. Tim is doing so well that he will begin to assist the staff by becoming a mentor to young men who are new to Ettie Lee's program. "Tim will play an invaluable role as mentor to other teens in our program," says Fuller.

From the President's Desk



Terri Varnum, M.A.

*The two things
in life you are
in total control
over are your
attitude and
your effort.*

—Billy Cox

Last weekend I attended the final California Utah Women's (CUW) luncheon. They celebrated 75 years as a philanthropic organization that has provided millions of dollars worth of time, treasure and talent to Ettie Lee Youth & Family Services. I was honored to be able to personally thank the luncheon attendees during their program.

The keynote speaker was Stephanie Nielson, author of Heaven Is Here. She spoke to us about her miraculous survival of a horrific plane crash that left her with burns over 80% of her body and in a medically induced coma for 3½ months. She talked about the incredible pain and slow journey to recovery. She explained how horrified her young children were when they first saw her 5½ months after the accident. Her baby only 2 years old. That they wouldn't even look at her again for 3 additional months.

But then, she expressed unbridled joy about achieving small milestones—like putting on jeans for the first time. She said that if you have never been close to dying, you can't possibly understand how grateful she is for life, just to be alive.

Stephanie Nielson is an amazing example of Doing Whatever it Takes to Build a Life Worth Living. When I think about the challenges she was faced with—and she overcame them!—I am reminded of the Billy Cox quote above. All of us have control over our attitude and our effort. All of us want to live a life worth living and to help the children, youth and families we serve to do the same. The capacity and potential that we have as an agency is boundless. If we take control of our attitude and effort and do whatever it takes!

Please Join Us As We Celebrate



**NATIONAL
ADOPTION DAY**

Celebrating a Family for Every Child

November 22, 2014

At

NEW UNTO OTHERS
175 Vermont, Glendora CA

For information contact

Vicki Mastro at 626-960-4861 or Vicki_m@ettielee.org



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your support!

Visit us **ONLINE @**
www.ettielee.org

We would like to change the way foster children are moved from home to home.

From ugly, black trash bags to

Nice, new DUFFEL BAGS!



To help, contact
Vicki at 626-960-4861

or
vicki_m@ettielee.org



Be A Foster Parent

Call **Cintha 626-967-5082**

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Cintha_J@ettielee.org

Ask About Our Foster Parent
Referral Program. You Can Help
Recruit AND Earn \$300!!



HOLLYWOOD BOWL

Fun at the Hollywood Bowl



Create Now provided Ettie Lee youth with a great outing to the Hollywood Bowl in August



WISH LIST

There are many ways that you can support the children and families of Ettie Lee Youth & Family Services' group homes and foster homes. Whether it's a financial gift or a gift of time or your talent, please call the development department so we can help match your idea with the needs of the children and families we serve.

Also the following are items that are always needed:

- Toiletries of any kind: toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, deodorant, shower gels, soaps, perfume and cologne, towels and lotions
- Hairdressing items: gel, brushes, combs, hair ties, headbands
- Clothing: grey short-sleeved t-shirts, ankle socks, polo shirts with collars, athletic shoes
- Bedding: twin bed sheets, pillow cases and comforters
- Art Supplies: canvases, sketchbooks, watercolors, charcoal, colored pencils, construction paper, and paints
- School supplies: backpacks, notebooks, pencils, crayons, rulers, binders, white out, stick glue
- Tickets: movies, sport events, plays, amusement parks
- Sports Equipment: balls of all kinds—basketball, soccer, volleyball, soccer and volleyball nets, ping pong tables
- Electronics: Wii games, X Box games, and MP3's

Every Picture Tells A Story



Meet Caro D' Antuono.



Funds from the Caro's "Care for Children and youth Fund" made it possible for Ettie Lee Youth to experience Speedzone and Medieval Times.



The Ortiz family recently adopted 5 siblings—the whole Ortiz Family is pictured here, just after the adoption was finalized.



The great folks at Big Sunday made it possible for Ettie Lee Youth to sail on a Harbor Cruise!



Senator Carol Liu (inset) was guest speaker at an event in July that underscored the need for more Intensive Treatment Care Foster Homes. Ettie Lee participants included (l to r) Herlinda Cuellar, Clinical Supervisor, Deborah Henderson, Intake Coordinator, Lawonda Keaton, Intensive Treatment Foster Parent, and Parisha Martin, Therapeutic Behavior Specialist.

Ettie Lee's Fireside www.ettielee.org



Together We Rise gave us adorable "Sweet Cases" (welcome kits) for some of our foster children.

Visit us ONLINE @ www.ettielee.org

Every Picture Tells A Story



Our friends from Keller Williams, Glendora, Arcadia and Pasadena, delivered 75 back-to-school backpacks just in time to distribute to our foster kids. Pictured here from Keller Williams are from the left: Alexander Nagy, Jane Holmquist, Debbie Henderson (Ettie Lee), John Flores, on bottom behind the backpack is Erik Samaniego, above him is, Karin Robison, Ken Parsons, Joan O'Rourke and Kathryn Rey.



As part of their annual Red Day Celebration, employees from Keller Williams City of Industry donated backpacks and hosted a luncheon for foster kids. Pictured here are from left to right, Karen Cash, Ettie Lee's director of Foster Care Adoption, Rene De La Peza Keller Williams and Wendy Rich-Soto also from Keller Williams and the coordinator of the event.



Teran Reese, former Ettie Lee Fontana Home resident, graduated this summer. He is pictured with (l to r) Kaylene Smith, former Fontana Home parents Kathy Binks and Dean Binks and John Tigner.



Big Sunday underwrote the luau-themed luncheon on May 17, 2014 where we celebrated Ettie Lee's Foster Parents.

Top photo: Ettie Lee foster parents, Guadalupe and Johnny Galvan, were honored at the event.

Bottom photo: Pictured are volunteers, Mr. and Mrs. David Mendoza (l) and Ettie Lee recruiter Cinthya Lopez (r).



Ettie Lee's annual Employee Recognition Event was held at Pomona Valley Mining Co. this year. Pictured is Employee of the Year Nominee, Ann Marie Valenzuela, Social Worker, and Board Chair, Ron Bateman.



Steve Lechuga, Group Home Administrator, was this year's Employee of the Year. He is receiving his award from Terri Varnum, Ettie Lee President & CEO (l) and Ron Bateman, Chairman (r).

Be A Foster Parent !
 (626) 967-5082
 Ettie Lee Youth & Family Services



7TH ANNUAL eBay AUCTION

We are excited about the upcoming
We already have many goodies for you to bid on!

- ➔ The Auction will be held **November 24 — December 5, 2014**
- ➔ Check our website and social networks as it gets closer. We will have all the information for you there
- ➔ If you're interested in donating items for our auction we would love to hear from you!
- ➔ **Contact Vicki_m@ettielee.org or 626-960-4861**

Here is a look at some of the 2014 donors



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Baldwin Park • Covina • Fontana (2) • Pomona • Redlands

ETTIE LEE Youth & Family Services
5146 North Maine Street
P.O. Box 339
Baldwin Park, CA 91706-0339

Support Ettie Lee Youth & Family Services—place a bumper sticker just like this on your car. Contact James and he'll send one (or more!) to you...
626-960-4861 or james_r@ettielee.org

Be A Foster Parent!
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