

# Ettie Lee's FIRE RESIDE

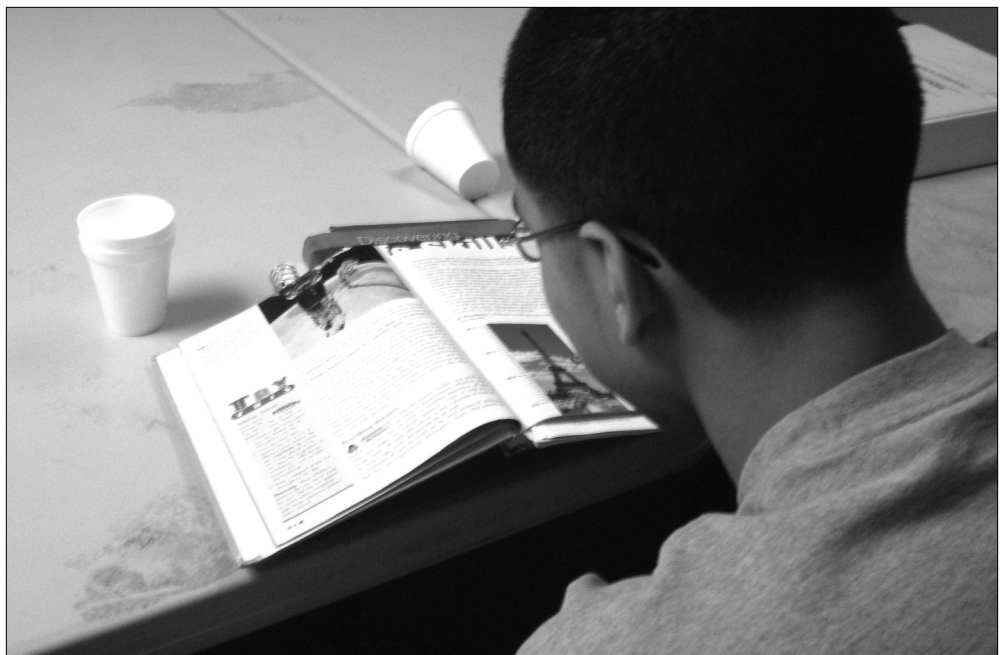
Saving Lives, Changing Lives and Building Hope for Children and Families in Family-Like Settings

May 2009

**ETTIE LEE YOUTH & FAMILY Services provides the following services for abused, abandoned and neglected children:**

- Nurturing, loving environments, for boys 8-17, in 9 group homes
- Adoption Agency
- A network of more than 35 loving foster families
- Permanent placement for boys and girls of all ages
- Fully accredited substance abuse treatment
- Outpatient after-school mental health programs
- Evidence-based treatment program
- After-Care program

## Education—A Priority at Ettie Lee Youth & Family Services



Ettie Lee's structured but flexible academic program creates a positive learning environment for the young men in Ettie Lee's group homes. Many of these young men are significantly behind in school having achieved little in the way of academic credits thus far. Ettie Lee is changing this situation.

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

Ettie Lee Youth & Family Services realized that in order for many of our young men to move ahead in school, and in life, it would be necessary for us to look at alternatives to neighborhood schools. In October 2007 Ettie Lee partnered with Opportunities for Learning (OFL), a California-based Charter School, because of its proven ability to serve at-risk middle and high school youth by providing a comprehensive academic recovery program.

At Ettie Lee the length of stay for each boy is approximately four months, a time determined by the Probation Department. During their stay, many of the young men are enrolled in the appropriate grade level at OFL. Many of these young men are significantly behind in school having achieved little in the way of academic credits. California's school system requires 220 credits to graduate and these boys often have less than 20 credits when they arrive at Ettie Lee. We have seen that OFL's structured but flexible academic program

**From the President's Desk**



**Clayton Downey**

**We thank you even more now for your continued support during these difficult economic times.**

**A**s we get closer to our 60th anniversary (Ettie Lee was founded in 1950), more than ever we appreciate, you, our supporters. You have always made it possible for us to work with abused, neglected and abandoned youth in our communities. It has been our unwavering mission and we will always value your contributions, participation and feedback.

It is not always easy to fulfill our mission and during these economic times, it has become even more difficult. We feel, though, that we are in a unique position to help our youth. We understand that children are growing up in increasingly dangerous communities. We understand that children need to be loved. We understand that children need to have positive role models. We understand that children need to learn new ways to manage their anger. We understand that children need to feel respected. With your help we are able to continually strive for each child to be safe, in school, out of trouble, and either in or working toward living in a permanent family environment. We thank you even more now for your continued support during these difficult economic times.

*Spotlight On*

# Long time philanthropist Linda Brandes is honored



**L**inda Brandes, long time Ettie Lee Youth & Family Services philanthropist was honored on October 23, 2008 at an event held in her honor. Azusa Mayor Joe Rocha and Councilmember Robert Gonzales presented Linda with a Proclamation at the event that celebrated the re-naming of one of Ettie Lee's residential group homes.

An Ettie Lee supporter for many years, many of Linda's family and friends were on hand to celebrate as well.

Linda revealed to the crowd that at first she was reluctant to receive such an honor. But in doing so, she believes she has made the right decision and encouraged others to follow her lead and support Ettie Lee as well. She also surprised her brother Ron, Chairman of the Board of Ettie Lee Youth & Family Services by announcing that

the home would also bear his name. Says Linda, "Ron gives countless service hours because he believes so deeply in what Ettie Lee stands for, and I am able to financially support Ettie Lee. We make a great team." The home will now be named the Linda Brandes and Ronald J. Bateman Home.

Ettie Lee Youth & Family Services is a 58 year old human service agency that serves at risk youth. Last year Ettie Lee served 350 unduplicated children and their families; 274 boys age 8 – 18 in our group homes and 76 boys and girls age 0 – 18 in our foster homes; 62% were Hispanic, 24% African-American, 11.4% Caucasian, 1.4% Asian/Pacific Islander, .3% American Indian, 9% mixed/other; and over 97% were from low-income or disadvantaged families.

## CALLING ALL PAST RESIDENTS AND FOSTER CHILDREN

**E**TTIE LEE YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES will celebrate our 60th Anniversary in 2010. We would like to get in touch with as many past residents and foster children as we possibly can. If you know of someone that was involved with Ettie Lee Youth & Family Services, please let us know.

**Ettie Lee Youth & Family Services**

5146 N. Maine • Box 339  
Baldwin Park, CA 91706

Attn: Vicki Mastro or you can call 626-960-4861  
or email [vicki\\_m@ettielee.org](mailto:vicki_m@ettielee.org)

# MAY IS FOSTER CARE MONTH

Ettie Lee Youth & Family Services & Pajama Program Ask You To

## DONATE NEW PAJAMA'S & BOOKS TO FOSTER CHILDREN IN NEED

### Drop Off New Pajamas and Books at:

New Pajamas & books for all ages, Infant through 17-year olds are accepted

Ettie Lee Youth & Family Services  
Foster Family Agency  
**754 Arrow Highway, Suite F**  
Covina, CA 91722

Se Habla Español

Call (626) 960-4861 with questions



### EDUCATION Continued from page 1

creates a positive learning environment for these boys. For the first time, they experience success in school and can see results that are transferable to the world outside of the institutional setting. At Ettie Lee they gain academic credits that will allow them to graduate from high school while they gain academic confidence.

OFL strives to help students successfully graduate with a high school diploma, or earn enough credits to return to a traditional school setting. OFL is a continuous enrollment school program, providing students the chance to enroll at any time. Additionally, when Ettie Lee's young men are re-unified with their families they can continue their educational attainment with OFL as it has 38 sites located throughout Los Angeles County.

The school creates learning strategies customized to fit each student. The program uses independent study built

around the student's Individualized Education Plan and regular student-teacher interaction. In speaking with Javier (not his real name) we discover how important independent study is to the student's success. Historically, our clients demonstrate significant problems with authority figures. At OFL, they are responsible to guide and direct their academic achievements. They are their own authority figure. As Javier states, "This is what got me through. I have completed 70 credits and am now a junior in high school."

In May 2009 Ettie Lee will celebrate the first graduation of one of the young men!

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

# DONATE YOUR VEHICLE

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*Proceeds can benefit:*

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**Ettie Lee Youth & Family Services is a tax exempt 501(c)(3) organization.**

To contact us, call 626-960-4861.

**Ettie Lee operates in the counties of Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Orange and Riverside.**

[www.ettielee.org](http://www.ettielee.org) Ettie Lee's Fireside

# Honor Roll of Donors

October 2008 - March 2009

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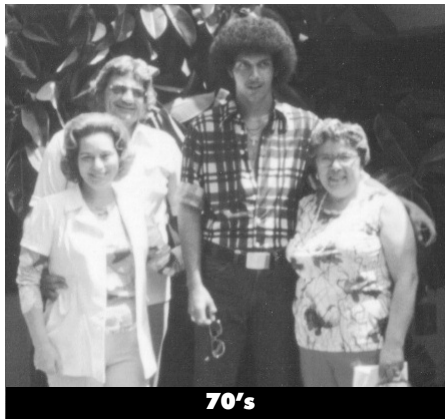
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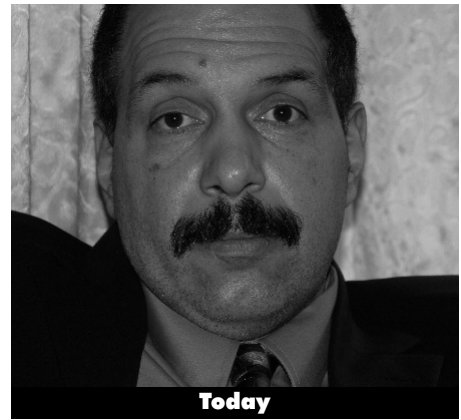
Ettie Lee gratefully acknowledges all our donors. If your name is inadvertently missing or misspelled, please call Vicki Mastro at 626-960-4861 so that we can make a correction in our next newsletter.



## Every Picture Tells A Story



70's



Today

Recently Vincent DeGenaro, a former Mt. Jurupa Home resident contacted us. Vincent lived at Mt. Jurupa in the early 1970's. Here's a picture of Vincent (the tallest person with his mom on the right and house parents) in the 70's (left) and today (right). We are asking that all former residents get in touch with us. We'd like to know what you are up to now.



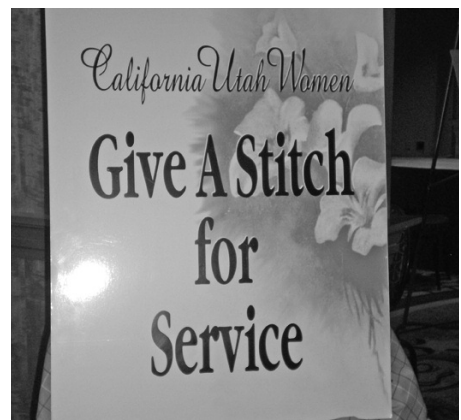
Funding from the Henry L. Guenther Foundation allowed us to install new energy-efficient windows, that replaced the very old windows, at our Santa Ana Home.



Welcome Nadine DeRose! Nadine is our wonderful volunteer at the Maine office. She is very enthusiastic and for the past three months she has worked on several projects in the development office. Nadine has also been a foster parent with Ettie Lee. Thank you Nadine. Can you volunteer? We could always use more hands.



Recently received funding from The Ahmanson, Fritz B. Burns and Lon V. Smith Foundations and the Sidney Stern Memorial Trust allowed us to purchase two much-needed new vans for our North Hollywood and Waterflow Homes. These vans are used on a daily basis to take the young men to school, after school activities, appointments, weekend recreation events, etc. Lots and lots of miles are put on the vans each month which means we must replace the vans frequently so that they remain safe and reliable transportation for the young men in our homes.



Twice yearly the participants, at the California Utah Women's luncheon, are asked to give a helping hand and stitch for service. The quilts that are stitched, as well as many other stitched during the year, are given to the young men at Ettie Lee's homes. The last luncheon was held on March 14, 2009.

# WISH LIST

(new or gently used items are accepted)

### Household items

- Throw rugs for bedrooms
- Light switch covers for bedrooms
- Pictures for bathroom walls
- Shower mats
- Blankets for twin beds
- Alarm clocks
- Books for boys age 8-17
- Pillows and Pillow protectors
- Gift cards for book stores
- Couches
- Board Games
- Pool sticks

### Personal Items

- Wall posters for bedrooms
- White towels and wash cloths
- Beach Towels
- Sun Block
- Hygiene supplies
- Super Cuts gift certificates
- Backpacks

- Prepaid phone cards
- Hand held electronic games
- CD players
- Grey undershirts (all sizes)
- Gift cards to clothes and shoe stores

### Outdoor Activities

- Sports equipment (excluding baseball bats)
- Karate, Music or Art Lessons
- Ping Pong Tables

### Fun Things To Do

- Art supplies
- Movie theater passes

.....

*This is just a partial list! If you have an idea but don't know if we could use it, please call Vicki Mastro 626-960-4861.*

*Thanks so much.*

## Be A Foster Parent

**Call Carla (626) 960-4861**

Se Habla Español

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



## Be A Foster Parent !

**(626) 967-5082**



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

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