

# Ettie Lee's FIRE RESIDE

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

April 2010

**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
- On-site, fully-contained school
- 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

## 60th anniversary edition **1950-2010** Success Stories



Sunny Photos - AMDS Art Studio

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

**W**e recently came upon an article in September 8, 1963's Parade Magazine. The article, titled "The Rich Schoolteacher" by Dell Roensch, chronicles one woman's desire to help troubled boys and girls but was rebuffed by a friend saying, "There are too many. You'd have to be a millionaire." To which Ettie Lee replied, "All right then, I'll be a millionaire." And, by purchasing, refurbishing and selling apartment buildings, Ettie Lee was able to make millions of dollars so that thousands of children could be given a real chance at a life these past 60 years. The group homes at Ettie Lee Youth & Family Services still operate in a similar fashion as Miss Ettie Lee explained in 1963: "Each group works as a family. There is no regimen of punishment, although reasonably strict standards of discipline are maintained as in a well ordered home. If any newcomer gets out of line, he or she loses certain privileges and rewards. Most of all, we offer hope and encouragement. We work with the strangers as if they were truly our daughters and sons." (*Staff Note: Ettie Lee Youth & Family Services no longer serves girls in the group homes*)

**We would like to share with you, our supporters and friends, a few of the recent success stories, as Ettie Lee Youth & Family Services celebrates 60 years of service. Many of the names have been changed to protect the confidentiality of the children.**

### SUCCESS STORIES

I really regret what I did and I wish I could turn back time and make it all go away, but I can't. I know that the people that I was hanging with were into drugs. I got into drugs. It became a habit and to support the habit I stole from my parents. My mom called the police and I was arrested. At Ettie Lee I got sober and now I am enrolled in school because one day

See **SUCCESS STORIES** page 2

**From the President's Desk**



**Clayton Downey**

**"As we strive to continue service, we also continue to strive to improve and introduce new programming for the at-risk youth."**

**T**here's never a dull moment at social service agencies these days. Sadly, many worthwhile agencies have had to shut their doors permanently and others, like Ettie Lee Youth & Family Services, continue to make cut after cut that have allowed us to continue our services for at risk youth. And, as we strive to continue service, we also continue to strive to improve and introduce new programming for the at-risk youth. Our on-site charter school is a great example of this. We are seeing great improvement with the accelerated process. The most recent report shows that there were 101 boys in the program (July 1, 2009-December 31, 2009) who earned on average 10.74 academic credits per month and achieved an average grade point of 76.22 or a C+. This is remarkable progress as most of these boys entered the school program underprepared and unmotivated. These results exceed those of the average student in traditional public schools who earn on average 6.11 academic credits per month. Onward!

**SUCCESS STORIES** Continued from page 1

I want to go to college. Me and my mom want to thank you for working with me so that I could find my purpose.

*Benny, age 14, Diamond L Home*

*Staff notes: Ben is an active participant in a day program in Pasadena. On more than one occasion he has been invited to be a guest speaker to the youth who are struggling with drug habits. In fact, he shared that he has been on TV (on local Pasadena channel) and that he will be in the local newspaper this month.*

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Just wanted to let you know Benny has been doing FANTASTIC. He spoke at a city council meeting two weeks ago on the topic of teen violence and drug and alcohol abuse. He even got in the paper. And, he just got back from a weekend in Sacramento where he spoke to the California State Legislature. He is doing so well. He is at another council meeting today and in the next few weeks he will be helping with a community project in Pasadena. We are so proud of him. Thanks again.

*Ed and Karen, Benny's mom and dad*

• • • • •

Today the staff told me that I couldn't go on home pass because they found cigarettes hidden in my room. I told the staff that I was set-up and that those cigarettes are not mine. I have not smoked a cigarette since I have been at Ettie Lee. The staff knew I was really mad, but they gave me a day pass anyway. I really wanted a weekend home pass, but I am not going to let any negativity of others or this place get me down!



*Tom, age 16, Waterflow Home*

*Staff notes: A week later a resident came forward about hiding the cigarettes in Tom's room. Tom continues to make real progress.*

• • • • •

I just want to thank you for what you did for me. You stuck by me. You believed in me. I made it. I pay my own bills. I have my own apartment. I have my own cell phone. I work as a chef in Santa Monica.

*Humberto, John Eccles Home (as told to Moana R.)*

• • • • •

I really love to play football and basketball and when I am angry I take out my anger on the field. But I don't get that angry that often any more. Before I would punch a hole in a wall, curse, and yell. Now I don't curse much and I walk away so they promoted me to lunch line helper.

*Dominick, age 17, Robertson Home*

*Staff notes: Dominick came to Ettie Lee in July. Some of his issues included: Poor anger management, easily agitated, vandalism, argumentative, problems with authority figures, threaten others, difficulty functioning in school, and poor peer relations. His birth mother has a 20 year drug history and his father is in prison. Since he has been at Ettie Lee he has specifically asked for help with his anger and school work and with staff's help he is learning how to curb his outbursts and at school he has improved both in performance and behavior.*

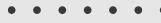
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My name is Juan R. and I am from Pacoima, California. I came to Ettie Lee from another boys home. Over there all I did was fight and smoke weed all day long. I didn't care about nothing at all at the time. All I cared about was fighting and getting high as much as I could. I went to the halls (juvenile hall) and I missed my family because they lived far away and they wouldn't come to visit me anyway because I was being bad. Some man came and saw me in the halls and said I was going to be moved to a place called John Eccles (one of Ettie Lee's homes). When I got there I met all the staff—Moana, Omar, Glenn, Anthony, Malia, Ruth, Lea, Yvonne, and Shannon. At John Eccles I learned how to control my anger and to figure out why I was taking drugs. I was there for 9 months and remained drug free while I was there. I stayed alcohol-free too. I'm a changed man and miss my mom and sister. I thank John Eccles for what they have shown me and I really liked being here because they treated me as a family member. Now I'm at home and using the skills they



taught me. And I am trying my best to remain drug free. Thank you John Eccles.

*Love Juan, age 15, John Eccles Home*



I got into the Santa Ana home a couple of months ago. They tell me that I have been a good leader since I got here. I don't know about that but I do know that I want to do what I can to go home as soon as I can. So I listen to the staff, do lots of chores and keep my bed and dresser clean.

I tell the other guys to do the same thing. I miss my mom so much that I am always trying to get her rides to come for therapy at the Santa Ana home.

*John, age 16, Santa Ana Home*

*Staff notes: He is earning a level of school credits above what is generally expected and he is earning B's and C's on these credits. He has been drug free as evidenced by clean drug tests and not involved in any other negative behaviors. There was one fight where another youth hit him and John did not retaliate against the other client. He has been open about his background and worked hard to change his past. He has aspirations of going to barber school, working as a barber, and furthering his education.*

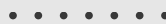


My name is Mario Camarillo and I use to be a resident in about five of your homes...one of them was the Azusa home. You could say that I was a handful. I remember lots of times I had in the homes and as I think about it, it was really fun. I didn't realize it then but the homes really helped me as a young man. I have made some detours but I am grateful for the homes and I look at my life now and I can say that at 34 I am a great man who is a worship leader at my church. I don't think anyone can forget about me...I'm the one who gave them all the grey hair. But what I really want to say is Thank You and God Bless.



Jorge was 5 years old when he was placed in a foster home after experiencing trauma in his family. After one month in foster care, Ettie Lee was able to place him in kinship care (under the care of a relative instead of being in foster care). The Ettie Lee therapist who cared for him reports that he hated being left alone. When left alone, he became very fearful and would search the home yelling for anyone to come to his call. Even after an adult responded, the family had a difficult time consoling him during these moments. Jorge also struggled to listen when asked to do chores or follow directions.

A little after a year of therapeutic service, Jorge is thriving in kinship care—both at home and in school. Jorge has not only overcome fear of being left alone, he now describes what it felt like when he didn't think anyone was there for him. He listens when asked to do his chores, follows directions and, has met his therapeutic goals. He also has received many awards, including student of the month.



I was 17 years old and didn't have enough credits to graduate high school on time when I came to Ettie Lee in October. But all of the staff members there really cared about me and encouraged me to get my high school diploma. They told me it would make a big difference in my life. I have been trying really hard because I want to graduate with the other seniors. So I am going to day school and night school to make sure that I will have the credits I need to graduate. I am taking college prep classes too! And, I have become an A student and I sure am looking forward to going to the prom and wearing my cap and gown. I'm also do my chores around the house too!

*Eddie, age 17, North Hollywood Home*



I came to Ettie Lee from another home. In the first two days at the Ettie Lee home, I really thought that the staff was trying to poison me through the food and by giving me methadone. I told the staff I was seeing lights and hearing sounds. No one else could see them. I talked about suicide a lot. I didn't want to kill myself but I would always think about what it would be like. I spoke about violent things like fighting in juvy (juvenile hall) like the time I put someone in a headlock and I was thinking that I could just kill this person. The staff at Ettie Lee found out that I had been on anti-psychotic meds but the other home didn't tell Ettie Lee about them for some reason. Now that I am on my meds,

See **SUCCESS STORIES** page 4

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OR CALL 1-800-766-CARE

1-800-766-2273



*Proceeds can benefit:*

**Ettie Lee Youth & Family Services**

Let ***cars4causes***

know when you call or donate on line

**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.**

# Help Support Ettie Lee Youth & Family Services with eScrip

Dear Friends of Ettie Lee,  
 Ettie Lee Youth & Family Services is participating in a powerful fundraising opportunity called eScrip.

## What is eScrip?

eScrip is a hassle-free way for non-profit groups to raise funds through everyday purchases made at eScrip merchants. Vons and Pavilions are just two of the merchants.

## How does it work?

eScrip and hundreds of merchant partners have created a system that rewards customer loyalty by contributing a percentage of purchases to a group such as Ettie Lee. You shop the way you like to shop for groceries, clothing, travel and entertainment. It's simple and convenient, all you need to do is register your grocery club card and, if you wish, your debit/credit card(s).

## A few of eScrip merchants include:

- |                      |                             |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Vons and Vons.com    | Claim Jumper Restaurants    |
| Pavilions            | Shaker's Family Restaurants |
| Bristol Farms        | Wild Thyme Café & Bakery    |
| HOWS Markets         | American Airlines           |
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| Eddie Bauer          | Pep Boys Auto               |



### IT'S SIMPLE TO REGISTER TODAY!

- Log onto [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com) and go to "sign up"
- Designate Ettie Lee Homes to receive contributions with our Group ID # which is 6627467
- Register your grocery club cards from a participating merchant—and your debit, ATM, and credit cards if you wish

That's it! Visit eScrip merchants to shop. It's automatic! We can potentially receive hundreds of dollars from your participation alone!

Questions? Please contact Vicki Mastro at 626-960-4861 or [vicki\\_m@ettielee.org](mailto:vicki_m@ettielee.org)

THANK YOU!

## Shop at ALBERTSONS and FOOD 4 LESS To Earn Community Rewards for Ettie Lee Youth & Family Services

*Ettie Lee is now part of the Albertsons Community Partner's Program and the Food 4 Less Community Rewards. See below for details of how to be part of it.*



To register:

1. Go online to [www.albertsons.com/cp](http://www.albertsons.com/cp)
2. Enter your Preferred Card number and phone number and press login
3. Click Sign me up
4. Enter 11 digit number which is 49001023781, click on Partner
5. Then Click on Update Now
6. You did it....

Your purchases will then count toward the community

Partner's Program and we will begin receiving contributions from Albertsons.

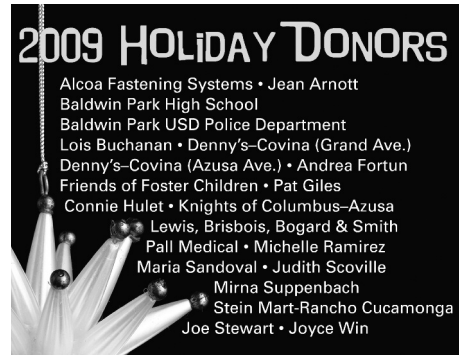


1. Please go online to [www.food4less.com](http://www.food4less.com) and register this card
2. Click on Sign in/Register (in blue, on right side under Welcome)
3. Click on Sign up Today (in blue, on right hand side under New On Line Customer)
4. Complete the registration process

Your purchases at Food 4 Less will then count toward the community rewards program and we will begin receiving contributions from Food 4 Less.

It's that easy!

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



## SUCCESS STORIES Continued from page 3

I don't think about death, suicide or violence any more and the staff says that I have been approaching situations with maturity and strength. I don't know about that, but I do know that I am doing good in school and I like to talk to the others about their goals too. At this rate I will be able to get back to my family early.

*Mack, age 15, Santa Ana Home*



I didn't want to be in a group home. I was so negative and disruptive that it made things really bad for the staff, and me, at the Santa Ana home. But the staff didn't give up on me. They got me on meds to help me focus and when I focused I could do really well in school. They met with me nearly every day at school or at the group home. After about 4 months I really started to do everything the staff asked me to do. I knew that if I did I could probably go home in the next couple of months. Even the staff recommended that I go home. At court though, the judge didn't think I had done enough and said that I had to stay some more. I was really mad, but I really started to do more. I wanted to go home I completely stopped using drugs and did better in school (*he earned above average grades, turned in more than the minimum credits, avoided all negative peer incidents and he followed the rules while on his home passes*). My mom even got help from the staff to help me when I went home (*Randy's mom and therapist worked on a rules and consequences list that he gave input on to help him maintain structure at home and he has been following all the rules while on his home passes*). When I went to court 3 months later the Judge allowed me to go home.

*Randy, age 16, Santa Ana Home*

*Staff notes: Since leaving the group home Randy has called twice. The first call was to say how happy he was to be home and thank us for helping him. The second call was to let us know that he was enrolled in school and doing well.*



- Bed Bath & Beyond
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- Café Santorini
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- Castle Park
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- F. Gavina & Sons, Inc.
- Green River Golf Club
- IHOP
- Improv
- Island Packers
- Japanese American National Museum
- La Strada
- Laemmle Theatres
- Legoland California Resort
- Los Angeles Dodgers
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- Museum of Tolerance
- Newport Harbor Nautical Museum
- Orange County Museum of Art
- Pacific Park
- Pasadena Playhouse
- Pepperdine University Center For The Arts
- Ripley's Believe It or Not Museum
- Riviera Hotel & Casino
- Round Table Pizza-Lakewood
- Royal Vista Golf Club
- Santa Anita Park
- Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art
- SeaWorld
- Sherman Library & Gardens
- Sony Pictures Television "Wheel Of Fortune"
- The Academy of Motion Pictures
- The Groundlings
- The Ice House
- The Irvine Museum
- The Laguna Playhouse
- The Museum of Contemporary Art
- The Paley Center For Media
- The San Diego Museum of Art
- Toyota Speedway at Irwindale
- UCLA Athletics
- Zimmer Children's Museum



## Shop At Ralphs To Earn Community Rewards For Ettie Lee Youth & Family Services

Ettie Lee is Now part of the Ralphs Community Program.

Just go online to [www.ralphs.com](http://www.ralphs.com) and enter  
**Ettie Lee NPO #90871**  
as your designated community non-profit.

Your purchases will then count toward the community  
rewards program and we will begin receiving  
contributions from Ralphs.

**It's that easy!**

See instructions and additional information below

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

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- Register online at [www.ralphs.com](http://www.ralphs.com)
- Be sure to have your Ralphs REWARDS card handy and register your card with your organization after you sign up.
- If you do not yet have a Ralphs REWARDS card, please they are available at the customer service desk at any Ralphs.
- Click on Sign In/Register
- If you are new online customer, you must click on SIGN UP TODAY in the 'New Customer?' box.
- Sign up for a Ralphs Account by entering zip code, clicking on favorite store, entering your email address and creating a password, enter your card number and personal information, agreeing to the terms and conditions then 'Complete Registration'.
- You will then get a message to check your email inbox and click on the link within the body of the email.
- Click on My Account and use your email address and password to proceed to the next step.
- Click on Edit Community Contribution information and input your 5 digit NPO number, 90871, click search, select your organization, Ettie Lee Homes, and save changes.
- Now, view your profile including your organization participation.
- REMEMBER, purchases will not count for your group until after your member(s) register their card(s).
- Do you use your phone number at the register? Call 800-660-9003 to get your REWARDS card number.
- Members must swipe their registered Ralphs REWARDS card or use the phone number that is related to their registered Ralphs REWARDS card when shopping for each purchase to count.
- If you are interested in the alternate SCANBAR method of member registration, please call 800-443-4438 or email your request to [community.programs@ralphs.com](mailto:community.programs@ralphs.com) and a SCANBAR letter will be mailed to you.

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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



Terri Varnum, Ettie Lee's Vice President, was nominated for the Women of Achievement Award for the 57th Assembly District—Assemblymember Ed Hernandez, O.D. Terri (5th from the right) at the awards ceremony on March 20, 2010, with the nine other nominees. Barbara Dickerson, Ph.D. was the recipient of the award this year.



Sandra Johnson, (on left) long time director of Ettie Lee's Foster Family Agency at a party held in honor of her retirement. With her is new FFA director Karen Cash.



In N Out Burger Foundation made it possible to purchase a lot of sports equipment for Ettie Lee's homes. Equipment included a pool table, foos ball table, soccer nets, basketball standards, volleyball nets, baseball and football equipment and soccer balls and basketballs.



The Sofa Company's promotion during the holiday season generated income for Ettie Lee Youth & Family Services. The Sofa Company has also donated much needed furniture for our homes.



Ettie Lee board member, Mayor Walt Allen, gave his State of the City ( Covina ) address at a luncheon at South Hills Country Club on March 5. With him is Sierra Jenkins, field representative for California Assemblymember Gloria Romero.



Volunteer Spotlight - Leann Barth volunteered more than 100 hours at Ettie Lee and many more hours at other agencies. She has been awarded the Golden President's Award from the American Heritage Girls organization for her volunteer efforts. Thank you Leann and CONGRATULATIONS!



Ettie Lee is proud to be a part of the Food Donation Connection. Gerri Wallace (on left), from our North Hollywood home is pictured here picking up pastries from Starbucks.



CUW's Helping Hands have provided more than 400 quilts for Ettie Lee's residents. Now, each resident, upon entering the home receives a quilt of their own. Many have never had a quilt of their very own. Thanks to Michelle Ramirez, all of the CUW home sponsors and the CUW board of directors.



Ettie Lee philanthropist Linda Brandes visited the Brandes Bateman home recently. She is pictured here, at the home, with her brother, Ettie Lee chairman Ron Bateman.



Nurse Sabrina, at the Pomona School site, working at 1 of the 2 computers that DeVry Institute recently donated.

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

# Help Support Ettie Lee Youth & Family Services



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the inside of this newsletter.

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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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