

# Ettie Lee's FIRESIDE

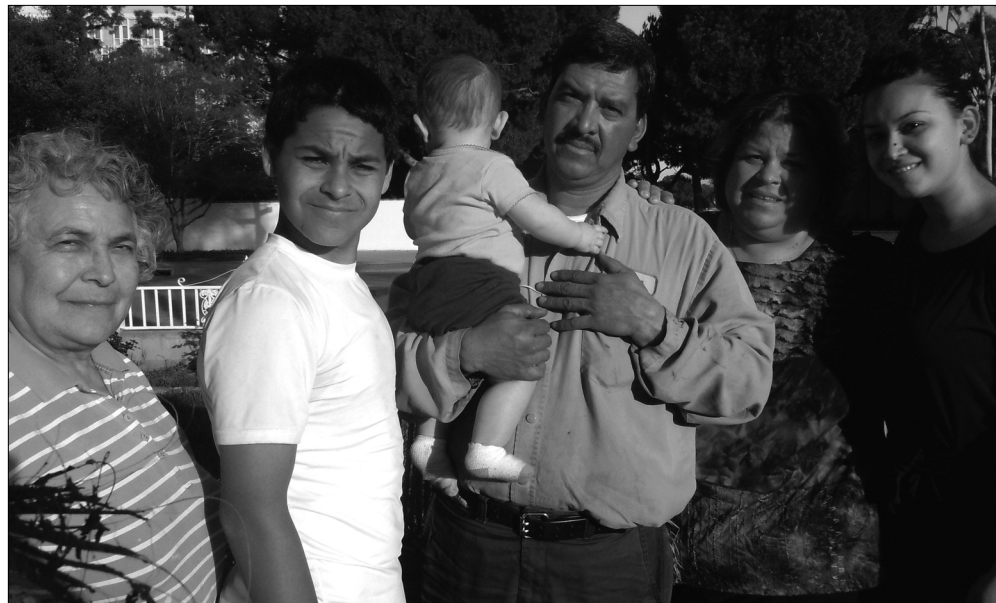
Saving Lives, Changing Lives and Building Hope for Children and Families in Family-Like Settings

April 2012

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

- Nurturing, loving environments for boys, 8-18+, in 6 group homes
- Foster Family/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 programs
- After-Care services

## The Flores Family Intergenerational team working together for children



The intergenerational team from left is grandmother Carmen, son Jacob, baby Briana in Jorge's arms, Zulema and daughter Carmin.

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

Zulema Flores always brought out the best in children. Not only with her own three, but the children she worked with at preschool where she was employed. When she was laid off at the preschool, after years of employment due to cut backs, it was the perfect time for her to become a foster parent. A few months later, on June 4, 2010, Jose G. came to live with Zulema and her family.

Zulema's family consists of her adult children, daughter Carmin and son Jacob, husband Jorge and mother Carmen (all of whom are part of the intergenerational foster team). What sets the Flores family apart from other foster homes remarked Karen Cash, Director of Ettie Lee's Foster Family/Foster Family Adoption Agency is their willingness to work with older children, "We are willing to take older kids because it really gives us a chance to make a difference in their lives," said Carmin, "but we do insist upon their respect of us and our property."

## From the President's Desk



Clayton Downey

On February 9, 2012 I was informed by the Council on Accreditation (COA) that Ettie Lee Youth & Family Services has met the accreditation standards of COA. We have officially started using the COA logo on our printed materials.

Richard Klarberg, President and CEO of COA writes that, "Achieving COA accreditation will not be easy. While the process and the new 8th Edition Standards have been streamlined to ensure they are relevant and achievable by agencies of every size and mission, they continue COA's unwavering commitment to excellence, client rights and essential life and safety standards." And, we all know that it was not easy, however, the diligent work of Ettie Lee staff members over the past several months paid off—when Ettie Lee received COA's accreditation.

Moving forward I am confident that we will maintain the high standards in place that ensure we are improving the lives of those we serve. The next accreditation is in February 2016.

COA is the accrediting body for behavioral healthcare and human service organizations. COA accreditation is a comprehensive process that evaluates every aspect of the organization, from leadership and governance to provision of services.

## Jonathan's Visit...



Former Ettie Lee resident Jonathan Murray (center), with Ettie Lee "dads" child care workers Omar Ortiz (l) and Anthony Biandino (r).

On a recent sunny afternoon former Ettie Lee resident Jonathan Murray made a surprise visit to the John Eccles home. This is not Jonathan's first visit. Jonathan remains in contact with his Ettie Lee "dads" Omar and Anthony and "mom" Moana Richardson ever since he left two years ago. Jonathan was just 13 when he came to live at the John Eccles home. Omar remembers that Jonathan was very well behaved during his two years at the home and said that

he talked frequently about joining the Air Force. At 15 Jonathan went to live with his aunt in Idaho where he finished high school and then ultimately joined the Air Force at 18. Now 20, Jonathan speaks fondly of his stay at Ettie Lee and credits his "mom" and "dads" with getting him back on the right track. Jonathan has just finished a 7-month deployment in Afghanistan, where he is an MP, and is waiting for his next deployment order.

### THE FLORES FAMILY Continued from page 1

Two years later, Jose, now 17, is still living with the Flores and they are also providing a home to Jaime (17) who came in August 2011 and Brianna (8 months). The past two years have been busy. Since June 2010 the Flores have provided a home (not at the same time!) to Carla (2), siblings Jennifer (4) and Jess (6), Ivan (12), Charlie (17), siblings Angel (13) and Cesar (14), Armando (12), siblings Joseph (16) and Tito (15) and Juan (12) and Javier (11). We have all been involved," remarked Carmin, "As a family we really care and help each other get through the rough times."

Brianna, the 11 month old, holds a special place in their hearts. She arrived at the home with only a bottle when she was 11 days old and has not left. It seems as though she never will because Zulema and Jorge have filed the adoption papers!

Teenagers Jose and Jaime are doing

well in school and look forward to being able to remain with the Flores at least until they finish high school and perhaps as they continue their education or start their careers.

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# Every Picture Tells A Story



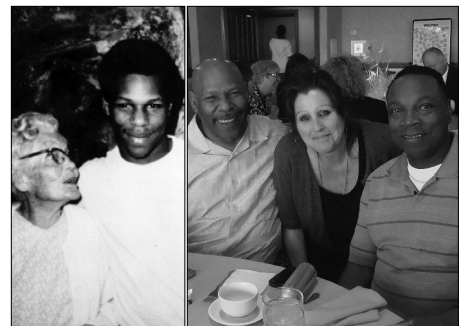
During the holidays the nice folks at Pacific Palms Resort, City of Industry, hosted a dinner for the group home residents. Pictured at the dinner is Director of HR at Pacific Palms Ruby Goodwin (center), President & CEO of Ettie Lee Clayton Downey (l) and former board member Lou Fisher of Fisher & Associates.



Ettie Lee's Foster Family Agency celebrated the holidays with most of their foster families and kids. Great food was shared by all. The Moore family, at right, sat with Santa with their own 3 kids and the twin girls they are fostering.



During the Thanksgiving holiday season Ettie Lee received turkeys from Suburban Water and Assemblymember Roger Hernandez.



Former resident Jeffrey Scoby was Ettie Lee Youth & Family Services' special guest at their all-staff gathering in January. At left is a picture of Jeffrey with Ettie Lee in the late 60's and a current picture of Jeffrey (l) with Andrea Martinez (c), Senior child care worker and John Tigner (r), child care worker at Ettie Lee's Fontana Home.



Each year the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power hosts an event that allows their employee donors to meet with the agencies they support. Ettie Lee looks forward to it each year!



Ettie Lee's foster families are helping us recruit foster parents by placing a sign in their front yard. If you would like to help too, please call Monica at 626-967-5082.



From left to right CUW Chairman Connie Hulet, President Michelle Ramirez, Ettie Lee Chairman Ron Bateman and President Clayton Downey as Ettie Lee presented an award to CUW for their long time support of Ettie Lee Youth & Family Services.

Visit us ONLINE @ [www.ettielee.org](http://www.ettielee.org)



Rowland Avenue Elementary School teachers Michelle Diebold and Jannell Hathaway spearheaded a pajama drive in December at the school. They are pictured here with some of the jammies!

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