

Ettie Lee's FIRE RESIDE

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

October 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

Manny* has learned a lot in his 16 years This is Manny's story in his own words

"Although my Mom was always a very strong influence on my schoolwork and how I performed, school was very hard for me. I was easily bored and chose to follow negative influences. In the beginning of my freshman and sophomore school years my GPA was 1.5. At 14 I was arrested for assault and battery and smoking marijuana and placed at Ettie Lee. I always had an interest in graduating early from High School though.

While at Ettie Lee I put in a lot of effort and I was able to stay more on task and accomplished the assignments, homework and projects as assigned by my teachers. This is what led me into the right place to improve my skills academically, and to stay away from the Juvenile Justice System.

During my time at Ettie Lee I learned how to stay more focused on my academic goals. I also learned how to stay positive, instead of being influenced by the negative, I have become positively influenced by those around me.

Through hard work, dedication and being motivated in my schoolwork, I was able to graduate high school with a better than 3.0 GPA at the age of 16. I have already enrolled in summer classes at a local college. My plan is to major in Social Work and Child Development and earn a Masters Degree. Since I was a troubled kid I want to help others in similar situations. I look forward to the challenge.

After my career is in place I would like to start a family. Once I have children I plan on encouraging my kids to avoid the detours I experienced, and to guide them to live their dreams."

*Manny's story is real. His name has been changed to protect his privacy



Manny delivered the commencement address to his graduating class at the Pasadena Civic Center in June.

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



News From Ettie Lee

From the Chairman of the Board:
Ronald J. Bateman

After 41 years of dedicated service, Ronald J. Bateman, has announced that Clayton Downey will continue his 41 years of service to Ettie Lee in various assignments including training and quality improvement through 12/31/12. Mr. Downey announced his excitement to returning to his roots, “to assist Miss Ettie Lee in her desire to bless the lives of the youth we serve,” said Bateman on July 31, 2012. At the same time, Mr. Bateman, announced that after active succession planning, Terri Varnum, has been named Interim President/CEO.

From the President’s Desk



Terri Varnum, M.A.

Itake very seriously continuing the mission of Ettie Lee Youth & Family Services—saving lives, changing lives and building hope for children and

families in family like settings. I also take very seriously Victor Frankl’s words: “The last of the human freedoms is to choose one’s attitude in any given set of circumstances.” These few words of Frankl’s really express the outlook that I would like Ettie Lee’s dedicated employees to embrace in their work with at-risk youth that we serve. A specific example of this will be to ask all employees to be the positive role models that our youth so desperately need. I would like to empower each staff member to be positive and build on what they have because positive thinking and believing in themselves and others will combat other negative approaches not only in themselves but the youth that are depending on us. This will move the mission of Ettie Lee forward—Saving Lives, Changing Lives, Building Hope for children and families in family-like settings.

Dragon Slayer



Alejandro C., an Ettie Lee resident, has been meticulously painting a Dragon Slayer (approx. 6’ x 4’) on a wall in Ettie Lee’s Pomona site. A gifted artist Alejandro is rewarded with time to pursue his art, during the intensive day program at Ettie Lee’s Pomona site, when his behavior is positive. The image of a dragon was not a random choice. The three-headed dragon also is a metaphor for slaying ones demons. Once it’s complete, Alejandro will incorporate inspirational words below the dragon—such as Hope, Patience, Honesty, Courage, Faith, Willingness, Discipline, Love, Service, Humility, Awareness and Integrity. Alejandro and the other young men who also participate in the intensive day program will take out their virtual swords and slay their dragons on a daily basis.

Hope

Caleb, 16, has been in and out of placement for years...he’s run away and he’s been told he has to leave—he’s very rough around the edges...constantly cursing and behaving defiantly...placed at Ettie Lee Youth & Family Services just recently, drug and alcohol counselor Michelle Quevedo wants this placement to be his last. And, if she has anything to do with it, it will. She has gotten him to open up on paper. The following are his words from a recent school assignment that he recited to a group:

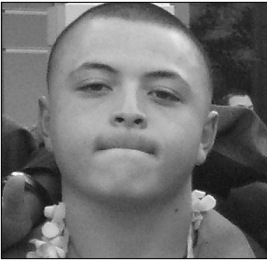
“As I sit and watch my life get eaten like an orange that’s juicy and ripe, my freedom going down like a flower that hasn’t been watered and intends to die.

If you look around you’ll see people thinking about the world and starting to cry after being in placement.

I want to get into the oven and cook or fry like a fly with no wings, that wants to fly away and not say good bye.”

Michelle believes he has also opened up to the idea of making changes in his life due to the safe and trusting environment that Ettie Lee provides for youth. Caleb is lucky to have been placed at Ettie Lee Youth & Family Services. This just may be his last placement.

Every Picture Tells A Story



David V. is one of eight young men who graduated high school this year. He is now living in transitional housing and he is attending college. He earned a laptop as part of a program funded by Friends of Foster Children for young men who graduate high school.



Participants at Ettie Lee's Intensive Day Program got a chance to hold a 7' snake during a recent outing. These young men had never held a snake before.



Some of Kohl's Fontana employees came out recently to plant fruit trees at Ettie Lee's Fontana home. In a couple of years there will be fruit.



As a person with Tourette Syndrome (TS), Adam Lutsky, 13, is a local teen who has been trained as a TS Ambassador recently spoke to 21 Ettie Lee therapists. His goal is to teach understanding, sensitivity, and tolerance of TS. Pictured with Adam is Valerie Roth, a clinical supervisor with Ettie Lee.



A group of happy kids, and adults including Lynelle Weber, foster parent (buried in the back!), Karen Cash, director of Ettie Lee's FFA (top right) and Claudia Cuevas, (top left) intake coordinator for Ettie Lee enjoy a day at Disneyland. This was made possible by Title 1 educational funds.

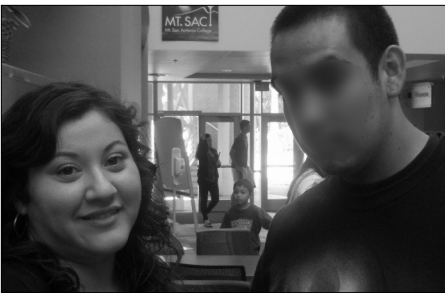


Free Arts for Abused Children coordinated a Spring party for all of the children in Ettie Lee's Foster Family Agency.

Every Picture Tells A Story



One of Friends of Foster Children's most recent purchases was the propane BBQ that Ettie Lee recently inaugurated at a luncheon for the youth in the Intensive Day Program in Pomona.



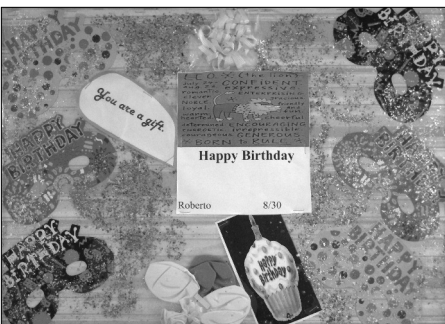
Eddie V. started Mt. Sac after his graduation from high school this year. He was awarded a laptop, (funded by Friends of Foster Children) for his accomplishment. He is pictured with an Ettie Lee social worker.



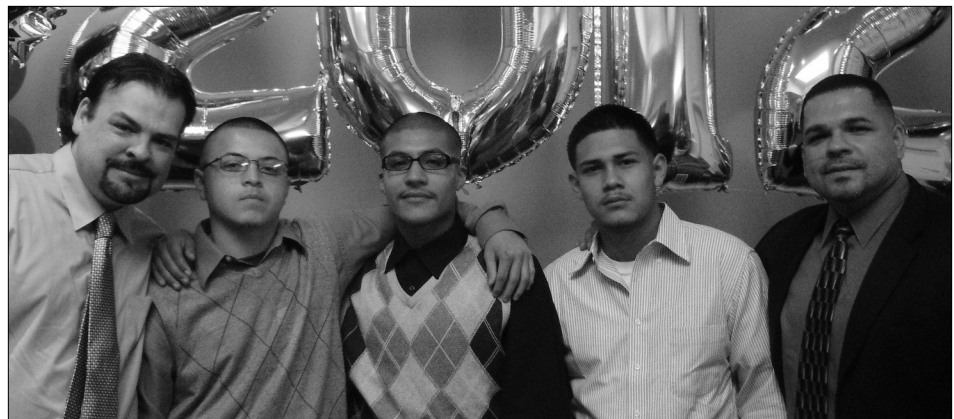
As we have for the past several years, Ettie Lee partnered with the great folks of Big Sunday in May. Many employees of Parsons (bottom) as well as Ken and Bobbi Perry, came out to Ettie Lee's Foster Family Agency in Covina to lend a hand at painting. Another group from Kaiser Permanente (top) came out to Ettie Lee's Pomona site to paint and landscape. Big Sunday's mission is to build community through community service.



Monica Moreira, Ettie Lee's Foster Family recruiter/trainer was photographed having lunch with one of Ettie Lee's foster children.



All birthdays are celebrated at Ettie Lee! Sadly, many boys in Ettie Lee's care are not accustomed to these type of celebrations.



Several of Ettie Lee's young men participated in Los Angeles County Probation's Success is Our Future event in May. Pictured here are from l to r: Tim Loper, child care worker, David V. Christian G. and Narciso R., and Steve Lechuga, senior child care worker. This annual event features awards and scholarships for academics, entertainment, art, athletics and literature.

Honor Roll of Donors

April 2012 – September 30, 2012

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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.



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
- Blankets or quilts
- Alarm clocks
- Books for boys and girls ages 0 – 18+
- 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 it's appropriate, please call **Vicki Mastro** 626-960-4861.*
- Thanks so much.*



We are excited about the upcoming **5TH ANNUAL eBay AUCTION** We already have many goodies for you to bid on!

- ➔ The Auction will again be held in November over a period of several weeks
- ➔ 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 james_r@ettielee.org or 626-960-4861

Here is a look at some of the 2012 donors



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*There's an Ettie Lee location near you: Azusa • Bloomington
Baldwin Park • Covina • Fontana (2) • Pomona • Redlands*



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!
(626) 967-5082
Ettie Lee Youth & Family Services