



ETTIE LEE YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES FOSTER FAMILY / ADOPTION AGENCY

June 2010

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60
years
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Summer is here! Beware: Hidden Dangers

Summer is here and for children it's time for fun and games. For parents it's time to be aware of summer's hidden dangers.

Here are just 4 of the many summer dangers to be aware of.

1. *Drowning:* Children love to be around water. Remember they need constant supervision even when they are around places with small amounts of water. Children can drown in as little as an inch of water.
2. *Sun and heat:* Sun burn on children can be incredibly painful and unnecessary. Sunscreen is just not for

the beach! Apply sunscreen on children regularly. Also make sure your kids are well hydrated by making sure they drink plenty of water while playing outdoors.

3. *Head injuries:* Children should always wear a helmet and protective gear when biking, skating, and skate boarding.
4. *Playground injuries:* Playgrounds, due to the many children on them, can be dangerous. It's easy to get kicked, or accidentally fall from the monkey bars, etc. Be sure to supervise children while they are on the playground.

Low Cost Summer Activities

- Spend the day at the beach.
- Have a back yard camp out and make some S'mores.
- Take advantage of Concerts in the Park that many cities such as Azusa, Covina and Baldwin Park host in the summer.
- Santa Fe Dam Recreation Park in Irwindale, CA
- Community Pools such as Slau-son Park in Azusa, CA
- Day trips to the mountains for hiking, camping, picnics

Ettie Lee welcomes new FFA Director



Sandra Johnson (left) and Karen Cash.

Sandra Johnson, long time director of Ettie Lee's Foster Family agency, retired in March, 2010. She will, however, continue to work at Ettie Lee as a part time consultant. Karen Cash, LCSW, will assume Sandra's position. Karen is not new to

Ettie Lee. In her capacity as a Mental Health Specialist for the past two years at Ettie Lee, Karen worked diligently to support the needs of our at-risk youth. In her new position as Director of Ettie Lee's Foster Family / Adoption Agency, Karen will

oversee the day to day operations of Ettie Lee's Foster Family/Adoption Agency. Her goal is to expand the Foster/Adoption Program.



A Letter from the Director

Greetings to our foster parents new & old!

Summer is upon us and there is so much to look forward to, but first let's recap all that has taken place so far this year.

In February Sandra Johnson announced her retirement as Director of Ettie Lee's Foster Family Agency. We celebrated her years of service and her commitment to Ettie Lee at her retirement luncheon. We will be forever thankful for all that she has contributed to our agency and the many lives she has touched.

Since I became the Director of Ettie Lee's Foster Family and Adoption Agency, many changes have taken place and I wanted to share them with you.

The biggest change will be in staffing. We are in the process of hiring new staff that will be committed to the changes of the agency. New staff members include:

- Claudia Cuevas our new Intake Coordinator. In addition to taking in and placing new children, Claudia will be reaching out to all of our foster parents in an effort to make great family matches. She will also be forming positive relationships with County Social Workers on behalf of our families and children.
- Chelsie Perry and Yecenia Riley, full-time, bi-lingual social workers. They carry a full caseload of children and families. Additional social workers will also join the Ettie Lee family as we continue to grow and provide services.

In May we hosted our open house. The open house was a wonderful time, filled with food, prizes, and piñatas. Our thanks go out to those who took part in the planning and implementation. A special thanks to all who attended; family, foster parents, staff, and CEO, Clayton Downey.

Looking forward — This summer Ettie Lee will be hosting a Foster Parent Picnic. Look out for the date!

And, as always make sure that you have attended the required trainings as well as renewing your CPR/First Aid and Water Safety classes.

I look forward to getting to know you and your families -- I'll either see you in your homes, or when you come into the office where you will most likely be greeted by Carol Tula, administrative assistant for FFA.

Sincerely,

Karen Cash

Karen Cash, LCSW

Director, Foster Family /Adoption Agency

Ettie Lee Youth & Family Services

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Ettie Lee's Foster Family/Adoption Open House — May 19, 2010

Our Open House was a great success. Guests snacked on taquitos and nachos, the children swung at the piñata, and we all enjoyed the balloon artist. Assemblyman Hernandez's office presented us with an Appreciation Award. Special thanks to our neighbor *Unique Printing* for donating such a beautiful banner announcing our Open House.



From left So and so from Assemblyman Hernandez's office, Karen Cash and Ettie Lee President & CEO Clayton Downey.



Balloon Artist Barry blew and twisted a mermaid for one of the guests.



Food, piñatas, face painting, balloons, mermaids, an octopus, and candy; what more can you ask for!

Foster parents needed!

Help Ettie Lee recruit foster parents. Refer a potential foster parent. They can be a friend, a relative or an acquaintance. Once they become fully certified and a child is placed in their home, you will receive a \$300.00 bonus.

All you have to do is refer them to the agency, be sure they give us your name. That's it! We will do the rest.

If you have additional questions, please contact Carol Tula at (626) 967-5082



*Have a Happy and Safe
4th of July*

New Training Offered At Ettie Lee

Do you have friends who are mono-lingual in Spanish? We now offer P.R.I.D.E. training in Spanish.

P.R.I.D.E. stands for Parent Resources for Information, Development and Education. P.R.I.D.E. is a 30 hour educational training for prospective foster parents that needs to be completed before they can be certified with us as foster parents. It gives prospective foster parents an insight on foster parenting and adoption including: attachment, detachment, developmental needs, family relationships, discipline. Also it helps give prospective foster parents an understanding into what contributes to neglect, emotional maltreatment, physical abuse and sexual abuse.

For more information, please contact Carla Barnes at (626) 967-5082



**Happy Father's day
to all you wonderful
Foster dads.
Hope you enjoy
your day!**

**ETTIE LEE YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES
FOSTER FAMILY / ADOPTION AGENCY**

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Carla Barnes, Foster Parent Trainer Recruiter.....	3514
Claudia Cuevas, Intake Coordinator	3501
Sarah Lai.....	3519
Chelsie Perry, Social Worker.....	3510
Tiffany Piascik, Social Worker.....	3508
Yecenia Riley, Social Worker	3507
Carol Tula, Administrative Assistant	3516

FFA STAFF

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We're on the Web!
www.ettielee.org

Since 1950 Ettie Lee Youth & Family Services has been helping children. Today Ettie Lee Youth & Family Services provides a continuum of services for abused, neglected and emotionally troubled boys and girls and their families in Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino and Orange Counties.

We place abused, neglected and abandoned foster children - ages infants up to age 17 - into loving foster families throughout the San Gabriel Valley. We are also an adoption agency that can facilitate the adoptions of children into permanent and loving homes

Our nine Residential Treatment group homes for boys age 8-17 we assist troubled teen boys and their families to develop skills to lead successful lives.

TRAINING SCHEDULE

Wednesday

July 21st, 2010

Required 3 hour training

Bi-Lingual Spanish and English

Topic: AB79: The Anti-Bullying and Safe-Schools Assembly Bill.

Learn About:

- The different types of bullying
- The characteristics that increase chances of being bullied
- Why kids bully others
- Cyber bullying and how to protect youth from bullies on the internet
- The anti-bullying bill (AB 79)
- Tips for managing and preventing bullying

Saturday

August 14th, 2010

CPR and First Aid Training

Time: 9:00 am to 2:00 pm

Bi-lingual — English and Spanish

If your CPR or First Aid has expired or is about to expire this class is mandatory for you.

Learn the concepts of CPR beginning with Check, Call and Care.

Learn the what steps to take in a First Aid situation and how to care for an ill or injured person until the local emergency response can take over.

Remember:

Foster parents are Required to attend a total of 24 hours of training per certification year.

For example if you were certified on August 1, 2009 you need to complete 24 hours by July 31, 2010. You will need to continue to take 24 hours yearly as long as you continue to be a certified foster parent with Ettie Lee.



**HAVE A SAFE
AND
AWESOME SUMMER!**

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