



For Supporters of Esplanade House Children's Fund

ESPLANADE HOUSE NEWS



From Client, to Esplanade House Employee

"I am a single mom of two boys ages 5 and 7. When I was a teen I got involved in drugs, using methamphetamine and marijuana for 7 years. My life was very unmanageable."

First I lost power because I didn't pay my PG&E bill. Then I lost my place of residence. I was living in motels and receiving food from churches and could not get my life together. This was especially hard for my children.

In August 2002 I lost my children to Child Protective Services, and they were placed in foster care. CPS required me to find a place to live, enroll in parenting classes, and get treatment for my drug problem. How was I supposed to do all that? It seemed overwhelming, but I was determined to do whatever it took to get my kids back. Losing them was a huge wake up call for me and a turning point in my life.

I found out about the Esplanade House, put in my application and was accepted in November 2002. I was able to get my children back from the foster care two weeks after I moved in, and I knew then that I would do anything to prevent that from happening again. Their father was no longer in the picture, and being a single mom was new to me. I realized that I was the only one my kids had to rely on, and I wasn't in the best shape myself. It was scary, but I was living with people who were all in the same boat with me, so that helped. But I think it was the structure of the Esplanade House program that was what made me feel like "I could do it". I remember thinking, 'Thank God that I was at the Esplanade House' because I could do all the requirements CPS had for me under one roof. I had a chance.

The Esplanade House offered many classes to help me regain my self worth, and the self-control to be able to become a better parent. In addition to the parenting classes I needed, they offered basic living skills, which covered many areas from how to clean your house to how to manage your money. They also offered GED preparation courses as well

as computer classes, and counseling to help with all the inside stuff. The combination was the structure I needed to eventually become self-sufficient.

The Esplanade House taught me that I had a choice as to what I wanted my life to be like. I could choose to ruin my life or "get up and show up" to better my life. I chose to better my life. My children needed me. I moved out of the Esplanade House in November of 2004. I was lucky enough to be hired as an office assistant in Spring of 2005, where I sit as I write this.

Without the Esplanade House I probably would be still getting high, I would not have my GED, I would not have gone to the ROP program to receive a certificate in Business Office Technology, and I most definitely would not be employed here at the Esplanade House. It is such a blessing to be working here because I get to be an inspiration to the clients who want to push through and achieve their goals. I want them to know that they can do this. It might be tough sometimes but it does get easier with time. I love the fact that I can give back to a place where I was given so much.

I know that one way or another, I'm always going to be a part of the Esplanade House. This is where I received my foundation and I am always going to need that foundation to continue the new life I have built for myself.

-By Candy Marsciano



Candy is now employed as Office Assistant

Consider an Estate Donation:

We would like to encourage all of our donors to consider sharing a portion of your estate when creating your wills. A donation of 5% - 10% or more of your estate to the Esplanade House Endowment Fund will continue to support our programs and families forever. This support is critical to the long term operation, as government support continues to shrink.

Only the interest earned from this fund can be used for our programs. The principal is never touched. Currently we have \$280,000 in our Endowment Fund, and have a goal of a million dollars.

If you would like more information, please talk to your accountant, or attorney, or call North Valley Community Foundation at 891-1150.

Toddler Room Wish List



- Soft balls
- Outside balls age appropriate (0-2)
- Trays to set up activities on (like the one at fast food restaurants)
- Construction paper
- Board books
- Washable markers
- Bubble solution
- Poster boards
- Diapers size 4-6
- Contact paper
- Tricycles – toddler
- Infant toddler wall-unit bookshelf

Infant Room Wish List

- 3-4 teething rings (ones that can be frozen)
- 3-4 large, washable throw pillows
- Several small, washable throw pillows
- Small soft balls
- Washable, bright colored throw rugs (infant – toddler throw rugs)
- CD's with children's music
- Washable early children's books
- Poster board
- Rattles
- Stackable soft rings

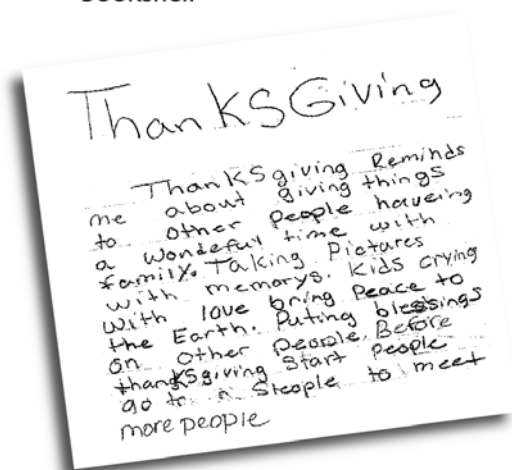
Maintenance Wish List

- Ohm meter
- Pilot Drill Bits
- Drill Bits
- Hose Washers
- Flappers
- Flush Valve
- Angle Stops
- Switch Plates (double/singles, White)
- Outlet Plates
- Cleaning Supplies
- Spade Shovel
- Hand Saw
- Skill Saw
- Socket Set
- Needle Nose Pliers

Preschool Wish List



- Paper (white) (lined)
- Construction (all colors)
- Puzzles
- Books
- Learning games (Anything Phonics)
- Left handed scissors
- Stickers
- Assistant Teacher (LOL)
- Stamp Pads
- Poster Board
- Dolls (for dramatic Play) Multi-Cultural preferred
- Small Table for dramatic Play area
- Fake Food/Dishes for dramatic play area
- Dress up clothes for dramatic play
- Small dolls for doll house
- Doll house
- Science activities (Anything science)
- Child size dishes for snacks & lunches



Donor makes "matching funds" donation through North Valley Community Foundation.

Esplanade House Endowment Fund is one of the recipients of a \$5,000.00 donation from an anonymous donor, who also gave \$5,000.00 to 9 other non-profit agencies. Here's the tricky part: if we can get a *matching* \$5,000.00 donation from one of our donors, this anonymous donor will give us an *additional \$5,000.00 more!* So, we have the potential of receiving a total of \$15,000.00 in our endowment fund if we can raise \$5,000.00 on our own. Please consider talking to your accountant about how a donation to our Endowment Fund can reduce your tax liability!

New Case Manager's Perspective

My name is Beth Porter and I am a new Family Case Manager here at The Esplanade House. I joined this team of tireless warriors at a time in my life when change was necessary, and I am elated to have the opportunity to reconnect to the true nature of why I chose a career in social services: to help people turn their lives around. It's never easy, but extremely gratifying when you succeed.

I am a ten year veteran in the field of Alcohol and Drug Services and have a vast array of experience in working with individuals whose lives have been devastated as a result of generational poverty, substance abuse and mental health issues.

Some of my earliest observations of being here at Esplanade House are the

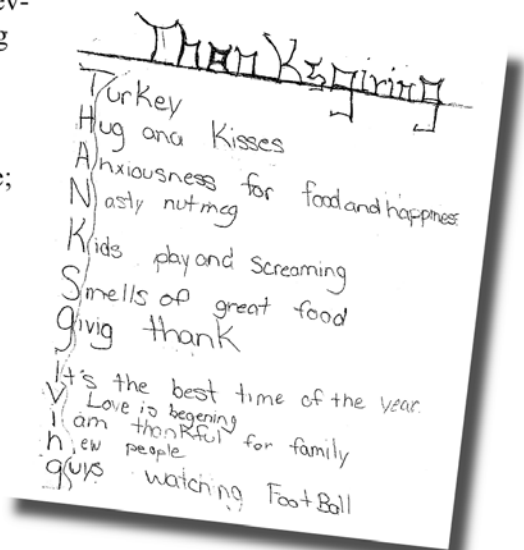
differences in treating those from a residential treatment center to case managing those in a setting of a transitional homeless shelter. To really achieve the ideal outcome for these families, providers must be able to offer a continuum of care over a longer period of time. This greatly increases the percentage of those who will succeed in becoming healthy and self-sufficient. Thanks to the generosity of private sector, and (hopefully) continuing government grants, that is exactly what we are able to do here at Esplanade House.

In addition, when I was interviewed for this job I found it most intriguing that residents were included on the interview panel. What better way to help residents take ownership of this program than by letting them be involved in the decisions that are made there? Even some of the staff are graduates of this program...who better to know how to evaluate progress or enforce rules?

I find myself challenged in this job on a daily basis. Each family here has their own complex scenario that requires strong lines of communication and networking with other providers. Here, I am not only able to witness change in families who want freedom from drugs and alcohol, but I also get to see the emotions that come with a client getting their first job, achieving an educational goal, or seeing them grow to be better parents. When I wake up each day and come to work the words of encouragement that come to me are; "I am blessed." Each day is a learning experience as I grow professionally and continue with my commitment to encouraging change. I am in a wonderful place for that!

Donated Goods and Services

North Valley Community Foundation
Greg Webb
Gary Incaudo
Lynne Bussey
Butte Glenn Medical Society Alliance
Papa Murphy's Pizza
Lifescapes Landscaping
Azads Martial Arts
Vectors
Butte County Office of Education
(School Ties)
CSUC C.A.V.E.
Rape Crisis Intervention
Jerry Converse
Phyllis Mortimer
Janet Rausch
Sorooptimist International Of Chico
Sorooptimist Rancho Bidwell
National Charity League
Loc Doc
Northern Lights
Halldorsen Appliance Parts
Valley Lock and Safe
Butte College Alcohol and Drug Studies
Hunter's Pest Control
Sunrise Carpet Cleaners
Girl Scouts Sierra Cascade
(Brownie Troop 178. Jr. Girl
Scouts Troop 8)
American Corvette Club
Faith Lutheran Church
Harvarot Congregation Beth Israel
Seventh Day Adventist, Chico





Update on Esplanade House Services in 2005

The Esplanade House program has expanded in many ways this year. In addition to being able to serve more families, we are able to expand services to those families as well. Not surprisingly, national statistics on the homeless population report that it is made up of more and more children, single fathers, young families and teens. These diverse populations have complex issues that can be difficult and time consuming to address. Mental health issues, addiction, lack of education, and child care are but a few of the problems facing these families in their struggle for self sufficiency.

Since 1995...

The Esplanade House has included a drug and alcohol counseling aspect to its program with individual counseling and relapse prevention groups for clients with a history of substance abuse. This was offered in addition to case management in an effort to treat the family in a holistic manner.

In 2004...

we applied for a state certification to open our own Out Patient Treatment Program. We are now able to more fully address the myriad of issues that our clients face. The program aims to ensure that participants suffering from addiction are supported in their efforts to create and adapt to a new lifestyle. It is critical that the family environment here be consistent with the mission of the Esplanade House as a

drug and alcohol free environment. And while treatment for adult family members is first and foremost, children of addicts suffer the problems stemming from the destructive lifestyle and their needs must be met simultaneously. Because our ultimate goal is to break the overall cycle of addiction generation after generation, the program is designed to provide direct and indirect services for all family members.

The Esplanade House staff is encouraged by the progress we see in our clients. Our success rate continues to beat the national average, and we will continually work to be accountable to our clients and our benefactors.



The Esplanade Staff wishes you Happy Holidays!

Thank You

The Esplanade House Children's Fund thanks you for your continued support and generous contributions. A special thank you to Dan Brashiers of PBS Printing for donating the printing, Deborah Burgess of Jiffyprint for donating a camera-ready hard-copy and Mike Dalling for donating the layout for The Esplanade House Newsletter.