



# Esplanade House News

*For supporters of The Esplanade House Children's Fund*

PO Box 3251, Chico, CA 95927

Winter 2006

## Can you help?

**Have a business or know one that will donate the proceeds of a store item? This is how it works:**

-We provide a special "Presents With Purpose" tag to display on the item. The item can be anything: a child's toy, a beautiful vase, a gift certificate.

-The tag tells customers that if they purchase the item, the proceeds go to the Esplanade House Children's Fund.

-When the customer pays for the item, they make their check to EHCF, and the business forwards the check to us in an envelope provided. (If customer pays in cash, the business must write the check)

-We are advertising our website [www.presentswithpurpose.com](http://www.presentswithpurpose.com), where all participating businesses and their items will be listed. How great to be able to buy holiday gifts and have your money go to the Esplanade House Children's Fund!

**Don't own a store, but work in an office and want to help?** Get together with co-workers and create a gift basket to display on a counter. Medical/dental offices, investment firms, title companies, real estate offices, coffee shops, beauty salons, all have foot traffic that will be shopping this season! Urge them to buy that goodie basket!

If you'd like to help, call Board Volunteer Lynne Bussey at 894-6789 or e-mail her at: [lbussey@sunset.net](mailto:lbussey@sunset.net).



## Why Donate to us?

First of all, we are a small 501c 3 non-profit organization, with a volunteer Board and no paid executive director or employees. We handle the private sector dollars that are raised for the Esplanade House, whether it comes through the mail from our bi-annual newsletter, is donated from an organization like Rotary or Soroptimists, or comes from a fundraising event. Webb Homes provides the EHCF accounting at no charge, as well as Endowment information. Management of our data base, newsletter design, production, printing, materials and administration is also done on a volunteer basis by our board members, but (darn!) we do have to pay postage to send our newsletter (about \$300.00 annually). So, our administrative costs boil down to that. We not only run lean and mean, we know that for every child at the Esplanade House, there is one less foster child in the system, and one more child that has a chance to grow up as a productive member of society. We feel our organization is unique in several ways. We hope you consider supporting our efforts!

### Current numbers at the Esplanade House:

- Families: 42
- Adults: 54
- Children: 96
- Full Time Staff: 14
- Part Time: 6=1.25 FTE
- Volunteer/Inkind Hours: 3519

## Graduate Voices

### Hi, my name is Alan,

I am a graduate of the Esplanade House! I was on the waiting list for a year to get in. When I got my panel meeting, I told staff my goal was to get my sons back. I not only got my sons back, but I cleared up all of my negative credit history and when I left I rented my own apt. with no co-signer. I had tried to accomplish all of this on my own for 3 years with no luck. It was only with the help of the staff and living at the Esplanade House that I was able to accomplish these goals. I now have a wonderful job and the life that God intended me and my family to have thanks to the help of the Esplanade House.

### Lana

My name is Lana, I started using pot when I was eight years old. When I was eleven, I was introduced to meth: from then on my life was on a downward spiral of darkness. I became a junkie. I was like a monster that was poisoning society.

I didn't care about anyone or anything. I was just an empty skeleton walking around with a dying soul. By the time I was nineteen, I started having children. At twenty-eight, I had four beautiful children, and still going strong in my addiction. My children and I lived in nothing but chaos, destruction, and darkness. On 9/11/03 CSD came and took my children due to my severe drug use. They told me, "one dirty test or missed test, we are going to put your kids in foster care."

I stayed clean for one month and then started using again. I couldn't stop using the very thing that took away the only things that I loved in this world, I just wanted to die. That is the insanity of drug addiction.

On 11/15/04 an angel of light came into my life and changed it forever! This angel of light was the Esplanade House. They accepted me with loving arms. They taught me that I was worth fighting for, something that I never saw as a possibility. I felt like a worthless piece of existence that just took up space. The staff gave me the strength and courage to look inside of myself to see what they saw;

and what I found was astonishing. I am a strong confident woman, walking through my fears, who needs validation from no one, I love myself, and I am somebody!

Thanks to the love and support of the people at Esplanade House, I have all four of my beautiful children back. My CSD case is closed and my children are mine again. I successfully graduated Prop 36 [drug court]. I started college in the spring of 2006. My major is Forestry and last semester I got a 4.0, I never knew I had it in me! I got my license back and a nice car that my whole family can fit in. As of December 22, 2006, I will have three years clean. I can say that I am a productive member of society today, but the most important thing is that I gained back myself. I came here with absolutely nothing but the clothes on my back, and a soul that was spiritually dying. I am living a life that is full of bright colors and a life that is a joy to experience with all its ups and downs.

Thank God and the Esplanade House, for loving me and believing in me, when I couldn't even love or believe in myself.

## Julie

Living at the Esplanade House was a gift from God. My stay was so filled with loving and caring for both mine and my daughters needs.

When I first arrived, I felt nervous and disoriented. I hadn't lived on my own in well over a year, but I was willing and open-minded enough to face this challenge at that time in my life.

My move-in date was July 1, 2005. I was given a studio apartment which felt like the Taj Mahal. I remember thinking "all this room is mine!" I started the program within the first week and I learned and enjoyed all the groups. I was also going to Touchstone and weekly counseling. So my time was used up and I always went to bed tired but feeling accomplished.

August 8, 2005 my daughter came to live with me permanently. All my hard work on myself and with Butte County Children's Services Department had paid off! That was one of the happiest days of my life; to get my little girl back.

It was slow going at first; we hadn't been together for almost a year and we had to get to know one another all over again. But time was on our side. We became closer and closer each day. Although it was difficult at first for me to show her love and affection, having my Case Manager and Out Patient Services counselor in my corner helped me through it. I thank Beth and Susan for being there for me.

What I have learned at the Esplanade House is that I am powerful, that I can love and be loved, I am self-sufficient and I can trust again. All in all, I thank God the Esplanade House is available to those who are seeking shelter and recovery, those who are serious and committed as I was. I feel very successful and I know all things are possible in my future, because of God and the Esplanade House. Thank you all for allowing me and my daughter to live here. Thank you for putting up with me. Thank you for everything.

With Love, Former Resident

## News From Our Child Development Center

Hello again! Currently we have a total of 96 children at the shelter, with 18 of those being cared for at our Child Development Center: 11 preschoolers, 4 toddlers, and 3 infants. We recently went on two memorable field trips. In October, we took the children to the **Book's Family Pumpkin Patch** where the children got some "hands-on" time with goats, horses, and sheep! We finished the trip by letting the kids select their own pumpkin from the giant pumpkin patch.



On November 2nd, we went to **Kirshners Wildlife Refuge in Durham**. For those who may not be familiar with their work, the Kirshners rescue animals from all over the country with special needs that would render them helpless in the wild. Even though it was raining, it did not dampen the excitement of the children, who got to see a white tiger, a lion, a panther and a linx. They listened, fascinated, as our guide

explained the individual special needs of each animal, where they came from, and how long they have been there. Recognizing the unique needs of our children, Kirshner's generously waived the admission fee for us. Thank you Kirshner's for your kindness!

I would like to take a moment to thank all the individuals who volunteer their time, money, and services. Your time and efforts are not only appreciated, but needed for the future success of our program! **If you would like to volunteer in the center or make a financial donation please contact Cheli Whitworth, Children's Services Supervisor, at 895-6552 ext. 231 or Gloria Rodgers, Esplanade House Program Operations Director, at 891-2977 ext. 205.**

## Consider Our Endowment Fund

We would like to encourage all of our donors to consider sharing a portion of their estate when creating a will. 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. Currently, the fund is paying \$15,000 annually and we have a goal of a million dollars.

If you would like more information, please talk to your accountant or attorney or call Gloria at the Esplanade House at 891-2977.



# Wish List

- Hand sanitizer wall units
- Teething rings
- Construction paper
- Finger paint
- Finger paint paper
- Art drying rack
- Toddler tricycles
- Cleaning kits for move in
- Copy paper
- Games
- Art supplies
- After school snacks
- Cleaning supplies'
- Non perishable food
- Toiletries: shampoo, razors, deodorant
- Towels
- Door mats for entries of apartments
- Mops
- Brooms
- Kitchen utensils
- Gently used area rugs
- Dressers
- Cribs
- Diapers
- Donations for our school age children's athletic scholarship program
- Donations for our school age youth counseling program
- Donations for children's birthday gifts
- Donations for transport van maintenance
- Donations to help maintain landscaping

## Volunteers

- For the infant/toddler and preschool room during nap time and playground time
- Volunteer to answer phones
- Volunteers for our family mentor program
- Volunteers for our children's mentor program
- Volunteers for after school program
- Volunteers to drive residents to Dr. appointments out of town (infrequent)
- Volunteers to help sort and organize our donations
- Volunteer to help distribute food items.
- Volunteer to teach music and songs
- Volunteer plumber for minor repairs



## Spotlight on "Community Angel"

We would like to take this opportunity to thank a very special volunteer, **Dr. Claire Fields**. Claire is a licensed psychologist who donates approximately three hours each week to provide individual counseling to resi-

dents of the Esplanade House. If there is a resident in need of counseling that we cannot provide, Claire flies in on her angel wings and works through the crisis with our resident. We are very fortunate to have her professional expertise and her big heart on our side, helping our moms and dads who are so often dealing with what seems like insurmountable issues in their life. She has been a guiding force for many of our residents who struggle to meet their goals of self sufficiency and permanent housing.

We are truly blessed with a generous community that supports our programs in a variety of ways: food, clothing, household donations; financial support, in-kind services, discounted prices; and volunteer service in every aspect of our program. **You are all a part of what makes up the "family" of Esplanade House, Community Action Agency of Butte County.**

## Thank You

We would like to thank the following volunteers and sponsors for making this newsletter possible on a pro-bono basis!

**Dan Brashers, PBS Printing**  
Printing/folding

**Mike Dalling, DallingDesign.com**  
Layout & Design

**Debbie Burgess, JiffyPrint**  
Camera Ready Art

**Lynne Bussey, PR & Marketing**  
Copy/editing/mailling supplies

## Holiday Cards 4 Sale!

Yes, we do have cards this year, at **Made In Chico** 232 Main St, or **Bella's Beads** 940 Mangrove Plaza (next to La Comida). Price is \$10.00 donation for 12 cards... several designs available! You can also purchase at Esplanade House, 181 E. Shasta Ave. Call 891-2977. Happy Holidays from all us here!