



The Esplanade House Children's Fund

"Helping the Homeless Help Themselves"

Po Box 3251  
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(530) 891-2977  
www.EsplanadeHouseChico.com



A happy family celebrates a recent graduation at the Chico Esplanade House

## The Annie B's Community Drive is on! Help Us Earn Challenge Grant \$\$\$

It's not often that your dollar can be worth more than a dollar, but that's just what will happen if you make your donation between August 15th and October 11th!

This is how it works. When you make a donation to Esplanade House Children's Fund through the Annie B's Community Drive between 8/15 and 10/11, we will be eligible for an incredible grant program through North Valley Community Foundation (NVCF).

North Valley Community Foundation has committed to granting \$100,000 each year, for the next five years, to local non-profits. For example, with the \$100,000 NVCF has to grant this year, if the partici-

pating non-profits collectively raise \$100,000.00, then the percentage grant will be 100 percent, or \$1 for \$1. If the non-profits collectively raise \$200,000, the percentage grant will be 50 percent or 50 cents for every \$1 raised, and so forth.

### In order to receive a portion of these grant funds, the following is required:

- ☀ Donations must be received between August 15th and October 11, 2007.
- ☀ Donations must be mailed directly to NVCF earmarked for Esplanade House Children's Fund (Literally, you will make the check out to "Annie B's/ Esplanade House Children's Fund").

NVCF is very flexible in the donations that can be accepted. Checks are most com-

monly used for donations, but donations can also be made online with your credit card on their website [www.nvcf.org](http://www.nvcf.org) or by going to the Esplanade House site at [www.esplanadehousechico.com](http://www.esplanadehousechico.com)

In addition, North Valley Community Foundation accepts gifts of stocks or equities, even gifts of real estate or other personal property of value. One hundred percent of the monies raised for us through Annie B's Community Drive will go to further support our program

A similar community drive in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, raised \$6 million last year and \$45 million over the past 10 years. We hope the Annie B's drive will be successful over the next 5 yrs., and reflect the legacy and generosity of spirit that Annie Bidwell left behind.

Join the Celebration  
Saturday, October 13th



The Annie B's Community Drive celebration will be held on Saturday, October 13th, at Bidwell Mansion involving all participating non-profits and community supporters.

The total donation amount for each nonprofit will be announced at that event. We hope to see you there! Make a donation no later than October 11, with checks made payable to: Annie B's/Esplanade House Children's Fund. Send your check to: North Valley Community Foundation, 3120 Cohasset Rd, Suite 8, Chico, CA 95973

**Questions?** Call Greg Webb at 891-3351 or NVCF Program Officer, Lee Laney, at 891-1150 ext 23.

together

we

are

strong

A collection of pictures from a recent graduation ceremony at Esplanade House.



In their own words...

“

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...

”

Read testimonials, graduate stories, donate, read about the history and more online at [EsplanadeHouseChico.com](http://EsplanadeHouseChico.com).

## News from the Children's Center

Hello again from the Esplanade House Child Development Center! As always, we have been busy with 20 children ranging from three months to six years old. Esplanade House graduation was held April 13th, when we had a total of 42 children from 0 through 18 years old and 22 parents who graduated from our program. Congratulations to all our families who worked so hard to get their lives back on track.

Again, we would like to thank all the individuals who volunteer their time, money, and services that help make the Esplanade House such a successful 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.

## Community Action Agency Celebrates 40 years!

This year Community Action Agency (CAA) is celebrating 40 years of serving people throughout Butte County through a variety of social programs that include the Esplanade House Transitional Housing Facility and the Esplanade House Child Development Center. In an effort to increase community awareness, CAA entered floats in three area parades that included: Chico's Pioneer Days Parade where we received first place, Oroville's Feather Fiesta Days Parade where we received second place, and Gridley's Red Suspenders Day where we received second place. A big THANK YOU to all the families, staff, and volunteers who spent many tedious hours building and decorating our award winning float!

Please welcome Susan Hughes, our new substance abuse counselor at the Chico Esplanade House.



## Esplanade House Welcomes Susan Hughes

We are happy to introduce our new substance abuse counselor, Susan Hughes. Susan is taking the place of our long time counselor and friend, Susan Prescott, who retired in May. Susan comes to us with an extensive background in counseling from her years of work with Skyway House, including the woman's program, men's program, and TRACK, which houses recovering mothers with children under age 5. So, you can understand how working at Esplanade House would be a logical move! Working with our families to stay clean, sober, and engaged in life skills is a lot of responsibility, but Susan knows the score from personal experience. Like her predecessor, Susan is an recovering addict with 8 years clean, and knows there is nothing better than having that common denominator to be effective. "I'm glad to be part of the team here," says Susan, "I get a lot of satisfaction in helping people turn their lives around, because I have such faith that it can be done." Susan graduated from Butte College with her AS and ADS certificate, and makes her home in Paradise. She can be reached at 891-2977 ext. 220.

## Esplanade House Introduces a Family Mentoring Program

by Ann Ponzio

When my husband, Jim, and I moved to Chico a few years ago, I read an article about the Esplanade House in the Chico News and Review. I had just retired from being a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor in the Bay Area. Having some experience in the social service field, I recognized it as a unique and outstanding program for providing a transition from homelessness to a healthy housing environment.

A little over two years ago, Jim and I volunteered to be family mentors. There was no official program at that time, but we were able to 'adopt' a family that was a good match anyway. Our family has since graduated and moved on. It was a rewarding experience to help provide another network of support for a family struggling with multiple issues. Fortunately, they are doing very well and made great progress towards self-sufficiency.

Earlier this year I helped Suzanne Brayton, a CSUC Intern, to develop a Family Mentoring Program for the Esplanade House. Since March of this year, we were able to match six more families with community volun-

## 2007 'Decorators Dream House' September 15th

Once again the Butte Glenn Medical Society is putting on this popular fundraiser that transforms a local home from weary to WOW! We are lucky to again be one of the many charities that will receive proceeds of the event, so put this on your calendar and tell all your friends! The pertinent information is below:

**Dream House Location:**  
3515 Bell Estates Road, Chico

**Tours:**

Opens Saturday, September 15th, ends September 30th

**Ticket Donation:**

\$25.00 - includes drink and pastry

**Lunch Reservations**

Reservations must be made in advance (additional cost). Call 530-224-8188

**Proceeds**

Esplanade House will use the funding to give small stipends to University students to come and run recreation and physical activity groups with our school age youth.

**For more information**

Go to

[www.bgmsa.bravehost.com](http://www.bgmsa.bravehost.com)

teers. The reports have been very positive so far!

Our goal in offering a mentor relationship is to extend another layer of support to families who may not have close ties to relatives. A mentor is not a case manager, counselor, or therapist, but a friend who is willing to listen, share what they have learned from life, and become involved with the family as they grow and build on their strengths.

# 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 Doctor 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

## Save those calendars and greeting cards!

When you receive a really nice card, (for any occasion) the kind you hate to throw away, don't! Save those for us, along with those beautiful monthly calendar pictures that end up in the recycling bin at year's end. We have some great projects in mind to recycle them and hopefully make a little money doing it! Drop them off anytime, or call Lynne Bussey at 894-6789.

## 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/mailing supplies

## Want to find out more?

[www.EsplanadeHouseChico.com](http://www.EsplanadeHouseChico.com) has more information about The Esplanade House Children's Fund.

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