



The Esplanade House Children's Fund

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



Community Action Agency of Butte County
Helping people. Changing lives.

The 2nd Annual Annie B's Community Drive is on!

Our Childcare Center needs your help; just make your donation now and have it matched!



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 1st and September 30, 2008.

We need your help! Our Childcare program is struggling to survive due to funding requirements the state has for keeping our license. We hope you will take advantage of this great opportunity.

This is how it works: When you make a donation to Esplanade House Children's Fund through the Annie B's Community Drive between August 1st and September 30th, we will be eligible for a percentage of matching funds through the North Valley Community Foundation (NVCF) grant program.

In order for us to receive grant funds, the following is required:

- Donations must be received between August 1st and September 30, 2008.
- Donations must be mailed directly to NVCF earmarked for Esplanade House Chil-

dren's Fund (literally, you need to make the check out to "Annie B's/Esplanade House Children's Fund").

We hope the Annie B's drive will be successful over the coming years, and reflect the legacy and generosity of spirit that Annie Bidwell left behind.

The Annie B's Community Drive celebration will be held on **October 11th at the Chico City Downtown Plaza** 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 September 30, 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.

**Join the Celebration
Saturday, October 11th**





Esplanade House Welcomes Lexi Grier

We are happy to introduce our new financial resource specialist, Lexi Grier!

Lexi is responsible for fundraising strategies and volunteer resources for Esplanade House, which means she has a lot on her plate. Already Lexi organized a successful Cinco de Mayo fundraising dinner at The Well Experience Restaurant, and is busy working on increasing our EH Children's Fund mailing list and power point presentations. But her biggest project to date is launching the first annual "Tee Up for Tots" Golf tourna-

ment, which you can read about on the next page.

Lexi retired in 2003 after working for 23 years at SBC, and moved to Chico from San Diego to be near her grandchildren. She has been a massage therapist since 1996, and did volunteer work for Habitat for Humanity in Chico to build the first "all women" home, completed in April 2008. We are lucky to have Lexi, whose genuine desire to be part of the team at Esplanade House shows everyday in her upbeat attitude and willingness to go the extra mile! Want to be part of Lexi's volunteer team? Call her @891-2977 ext. 217.

Spotlight on Community Angel

With over 100 children on average living here at Esplanade House, you can imagine what a job it is to keep up with birthdays, but there is one woman we can always count on: Barbara Schrader. A member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Barbara makes birthday bas-

kets for every child at the Esplanade House, filling each basket with age and gender appropriate gifts. These baskets are always a sheer delight to these children, presented as a surprise that adds to the magic of their special day!

Barbara seems to embody the spirit of selfless giving. At Christmas, she donates hours of her precious time knitting colorful hats and scarves that she attaches to little stuffed bears, and gives to each family member living at Esplanade House. When families graduate, Barbara spends hours of time and energy preparing individual family graduation baskets loaded with items needed to set up their first household.

Barbara Schrader is a truly wonderful, giving person and we are blessed to have her as an Esplanade House Angel. On behalf of Esplanade House/Community Action Agency staff and families, we like to give a big heartfelt Thank You to Barbara for all she does!

“ In Their Own Words:

Hi my name is Janis Powers. When I came to the Esplanade House in July 2006, I had been on the waiting list for approximately one year. I had gone to rehab and the same night Marcus was taken to jail and our son was taken to Child Protective Services. Once I was at the Esplanade House, I was able to gain custody of my son, Xavier Jones, and reunite with his father, Marcus, who has become a better father, thanks to the parenting classes, and being able to care for our son together in a safe, clean and sober environment.

I was persistent in finding employment and I am now a responsible worker. I recently received a promotion at work (Jack In The Box) as a team leader and I am so thankful for this program. The program has taught me structure, life skills, money management and accountability. I now feel that "I AM" self-sufficient. I am so grateful to my case managers Richard Day and Jan Owen for all their help.

I have made wonderful friends at the Esplanade House. We all relate to each other and share similar experiences, and also share great success stories and working hard to change our lives. It's a joy living in this community together and watching everyone grow, especially our beautiful children. I am grateful that I was given the opportunity to reunite with Marcus and Xavier and show my child a better life.



News from Child Development

by Cheli Whitworth

Hello again from the Esplanade House Child Development Center! We currently have 22 children three months to six years old enrolled in the center, as 12 children "graduated" with their parents on June 6th.

Our teachers in both infant-toddler and preschool classrooms work very hard to keep the curriculum updated, and create specific portfolio's for all the children. We had our first annual open house parent day on May 16th for the parents, where the preschool children sang for the crowd

and proudly showed off what they have learned. It was a great success due to everyone's hard work! A BIG THANK YOU to my teachers Heather, Aimee, Brittany, Alanna, and Roxana, because without you it would not have been possible!

Again, a big thanks to everyone who volunteers their time, money, and services that make the Esplanade House such a successful program. As many of you know, the children's program is having funding problems so every little bit helps! If you would like to volunteer or make a financial donation please contact Cheli Whitworth, Children's Services Supervisor, at 895-6552 ext. 231.

Wish List

- Food cards for families entering the program
- Gift cards to help families with birthday gifts
- Cribs
- Lightly used children's clothing
- Lightly used toys
- Diapers
- Gently used clothing, men and women
- Household items needed to set up an apartment
- Bed linens and towels
- Tools for our maintenance needs
- Paper shredder
- Low mileage van for transporting families to appointments
- Quick read infant thermometers
- Garden Hose

Volunteers

- Children's tutor
- Mentors for our Family Mentor Program
- GED instructor
- Help in our Donations Department to sort and distribute donations to our families
- Help in our Child-care center; hold a baby, read a story, do an art project, lead songs, play a game
- Family or marriage therapist to donate a few hours of counseling

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 has more information about The Esplanade House Children's Fund.

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Other Special Thanks

Sierra Nevada Brewery, The Well Ministries, Marie Hubbard (LDS), Staci Sasselli at Walmart and Papa Murphy's Pizza (donates pizza for Phase I tenants once a month). Janet Rauch, Claire Fields, Phyllis Mortimer, Ann Ponzio, Maureen Daley, Bob Holdstock, Americana Corvette Club, Rancho Esquan, and Soroptomist. These are people who have committed themselves to our program and families on an on-going basis.

1ST ANNUAL "TEE UP FOR TOTS" GOLF TOURNAMENT

I love
Tri Counties
Bank!



I'm going
to win
a Million \$!



I'm going for
the tri-tip
BBQ dinner



I'm such a
scratcher...



I get to play
with Elsie!



Join us for the 1st Annual "Tee Up For Tots" Golf Tournament, Monday September 29, 2008 at Canyon Oaks Country Club, Chico, CA.

Benefiting the Esplanade House Children's Fund Providing services for homeless children. Presented by:

 **TRI COUNTIES BANK**

Hole in one prizes

\$10,000.00 Cash
Carnival Bahamas cruise
Golf package for two
Set of clubs & matching bag

Million dollar shootout

A chance to win \$1,000,000.00!

Dress Code

Collared shirts, tailored mid-length shorts, No blue denim. Soft spikes only.

Meals

Includes BBQ lunch on the course! Tri-tip & chicken dinner in the clubhouse!

For more information

Contact Lexi Grier at
lgrier@buttecaa.com
or Gloria Rodgers at
grodgers@buttecaa.com

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Another great
partnership of
**Community
Action Agency**