



## 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.*

# Calling all Golfers!

The kids at Esplanade House need your help!



The Esplanade House Children's Fund will be holding its 2nd Annual "Tee Up For Tots" golf tournament at Canyon Oaks Country Club on June 1st, 2009.

*Can you put together a foursome?  
See the flyer on the back page!*

Can you donate an item for our silent auction or raffle?

*Can you sponsor a hole and let it advertise your business?*

Contact our tournament coordinator,  
Lexi Grier at [lgrier@buttecaa.com](mailto:lgrier@buttecaa.com)  
or call 891-2977 Ext. 217.



### Graduation 2009: You're Invited!

Phase 1 clients will be holding their graduation ceremony on June 19th @ Our Divine Savior Catholic Church at 1pm.

We have 15 clients celebrating their accomplishments. Please come and meet some of the families you have helped to support as they reach this important milestone! They couldn't have done it without your help.

Refreshments will be served.



## Welcome Our New Children's Services Supervisor

We are happy to introduce our new **Children's Services Supervisor Heather Whitacre**. Although this is a new position for Heather, she has worked for the Esplanade House as a teacher in the Child Development Center since 2002.

Heather has worked in the child care field since 1998 with age groups ranging from infants to 6th grade. She moved to Chico from the Bay Area in 2000 and graduated from CSU, Chico with a BA in Child Development in

2002. She has also done some Master's coursework in Education and holds a Site Supervisor's Permit from the state of California. Heather is married and has a 1 1/2 year old son Jacob.

Heather is ready to accept the new responsibilities and challenges her new position will bring. She looks forward to building new relationships within the community and representing the Child Development Center and the Esplanade House.

If you would like any information about the Child Development Center or about volunteering please contact Heather at (530) 895-6552 ext 231

## A Graduate's Story: "In Their Own Words"

by Charlotte Peters

The Esplanade House has given me structure and stability, something never experienced growing up and could never provide for my three children. I feel safe for the first time in my life.

I left an abusive home at age 15 and began using methamphetamines. I had my first son when I was 19, and my relationship was abusive as well. My children also felt the brunt of my unhealthy lifestyle. It was learned behavior... my mom abused me and I abused my kids.

In 2000, Child Protective Services took custody of my kids as a result of my drug use. The only time I stayed clean was to regain custody of my children and CPS was out of my life after 19 months. Yet, I lost my children again in 2003.

I wound up homeless, staying at the Torres Shelter from time to time. After 17 years of drug-use, I moved into the Orchard Church recovery ministry and found comfort in the Lord. I have been drug-free since Aug. 25, 2006.

I moved into the Esplanade House Jan. 2007 and obtained custody of my 3-year-old son, JR, a month later. I have been at the Esplanade House for about two years, in Phase 1 for 14 months and then I transferred to Phase 2.

I benefited from the daily living skills classes offered, and my case manager Beth Porter, who taught me to achieve my goals. She helped me make phone calls to doctors, went with me to dentist appointments and even to court hearings.

Beth stuck by me; she helped me if I needed a little extra push. Today I have an awesome relationship with my son... I've never raised my hand to him. I am currently trying to obtain custody or visitation of my two other children who are staying with their father in Missouri.

I will be getting married on June 6, 2009. I'm leaving the Esplanade House and getting my own place on May 1st. I have quit smoking and have a great job at Enloe Hospital. Now I hope to be a role model for those who are just entering the Esplanade House, and to others who are or have been homeless.

Our lives are completely different now -- I'm patient and loving and I want to help other people... I want to help pick them up off the ground.

If I didn't have the Esplanade House, I don't know what would have happened to my family. The program at the Esplanade House saved my family and I will be forever grateful.



## News from Child Development

By Heather Whitacre

Hello from the Esplanade House CDC! I would like to start by introducing myself. I am the new Children's Services Supervisor here at the CDC. Although I am in a new position, I have worked here for many years as a teacher.

The CDC currently has 38 children enrolled. This includes 12 infants and toddlers and 26 preschool aged children. I would like to recognize the volunteers who are currently helping out in the classroom as the number of children enrolled continues to grow. A big thank you to Sabrina, Chelsea, Laura, Meekha, Kathy, Hillary, Denise and everyone else who has put in a few hours here and there to help out.

One of the most exciting things that is happening at the center is the GRUB program. GRUB (Growing Resourcefully Uniting Bellies) is a non profit program under the Chico Food Network. Stephanie and Sherri have constructed an on-site garden with the preschool children. They come in once a week to take care of the garden with the children. They also implement various other activities including making compost and keeping up a worm farm. Just last week the children planted cherry, nectarine and mandarin orange trees to contribute to our community.

With the many changes at the CDC recently, the staff deserves a big Kudos! for their dedication and support: Aimee, Roxana, Alanna, Brittany, Kathi, Christine and Judy!

If you would like to volunteer or make a donation to our program please contact Heather Whitacre at (530) 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](http://www.EsplanadeHouseChico.com)**  
has more information about The Esplanade House Children's Fund.

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## Other Special Thanks

These are people who have committed themselves to our program and families on an on-going basis: The Well Ministries of Rescue, Salvation Army, Marie Hubbard (LDS), Dragon Graphics, Sierra Nevada Brewery, Lynne Bussey, Americana Corvette Club, Tri Counties Bank, Staci Sasselli at Walmart, Soroptomist, Justin Self at Live Motion Media, Barbara Schrader & Lou Boelens, Morgan Schmidt, Janet Rauch, Sierra Nevada Brewery, Clair Fields, Phyllis Mortimer, Ann Ponzio, Maureen Daley, Bob Holdstock.

# 2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL "TEE UP FOR TOTS" GOLF TOURNAMENT

I love  
Tri Counties  
Bank!



I'm going  
to win  
\$10,000!



I'm going for  
the tri-tip  
BBQ dinner



I'm such a  
scratcher...



I get to win  
the cruise!



**Join us for the 2nd Annual "Tee Up For Tots" Golf Tournament, Monday June 1, 2009 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

**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](mailto:lgrier@buttecaa.com) or Gloria Rodgers at [grodgers@buttecaa.com](mailto:grodgers@buttecaa.com)

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Another great  
partnership of  
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