



For Supporters of Esplanade House Children's Fund

# ESPLANADE HOUSE NEWS

PO Box 3251, Chico, CA 95927

## News From Our Childrens' Center

### SPONSORS AND VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Presently there are 92 children living at the Esplanade House. Twenty- five of these children, ages 3 months to 6 years old, are cared for in three separate activity rooms that include 2 infant/toddler rooms and a preschool classroom. Because of the at-risk children and families we work with, the cost of running a quality child center is high.

This area of our program is not being financially sustained. We support some of the costs with blended funding sources such as grants, child care payments, and private donations. In addition, we conserve cost by having our parents participate in a variety of capacities. Their activities include preparing snacks and lunches, doing laundry and dishes, maintaining classroom cleanliness, and helping teachers supervise and care for their children. These responsibilities help them develop a variety of life skills such as better parenting, accountability, housekeeping, and health and safety practices

With federal and state grants being cut, even the parent involvement is not enough to close

the gap. We need financial support from our community as well. We are in great need of individuals and/or businesses that can help support the costs with a financial donation through our "sponsor the children" program that supports the work we do with these special children. Sponsors contributions go directly to support the children's center.

Furthermore, although we are fortunate to have a dedicated caring staff of teachers, volunteers are an invaluable resource we continue to need! If you have time to spare to help cook, clean, read stories, or help with projects, please call us!

A special thank you goes out to all the people who have already donated their time and money. Your continued support is critical to the success of our program. For more information about how to sponsor a child or become a volunteer, please contact Gloria Rodgers, Program Director, at 891-2977 ext. 205 or Cheli Whitworth at 895-6552 ext. 231.



### Wish List

- Vacuum cleaners
- Kitchen Utensils
- Tableware
- Pots & Pans
- Cribs
- Dressers
- Door mats
- Gently Used In-season Clothing
- Kitchen Tables and Chairs
- Children's toys.



THE FATHERHOOD PROJECT... THANKS TO BUTTE-GLENN MEDICAL ALLIANCE

One of the changes we have seen over the last 15 years is the increase in the number of families headed by single fathers. While most of our families continue to be lead by single mothers, 10% of our current families are lead by fathers and 27% are intact families.

Again, a big "thank you" to the women of the Butte Glenn Medical Alliance for making the Fatherhood Project possible!

Esplanade House has responded to this change by creating more opportunities for fathers to learn the parenting skills they need to be successful. With the help of the Butte Glenn Medical Alliance and their "Dream House" fundraiser, we have been able to provide two 10 week sessions of classes specific to the issues single fathers must deal with. We partnered with Parent Education Network, who provided a group leader to head the project. As funding runs out to support the leaders, the group will continue as an Esplanade House program assisted by volunteers and the participating fathers.



FROM THE DESK OF: GLORIA RODGERS, OPERATIONS DIRECTOR



It has been two years of growth and change since we relocated to the new Esplanade House site, and we continue our work to house and rehabilitate families in crisis. Currently we have 41 families; 53 adults and 92 children. That means your support provides a clean, safe housing environment and critical services for 145 people; people that have the opportunity to change their lives thanks to you.

We now have 14 full time staff, 4 part time staff, and 9 regular volunteers that are working with families to help them reach their goals of health and self-sufficiency.

Our staff and volunteers are dedicated to making our program the best it can be, in difficult circumstances and with very little budget.

Although our mission of "Helping the Homeless Help Themselves" is a challenging one, we are supported by a strong network of volunteers from every walk of life, as well as student interns, businesses that donate services, and local agencies we collaborate with.

Of course, at the core of our mission are the families that are challenged to help themselves.

To achieve success requires hard work, persistence, and a willingness to change. No one works harder than they do for their own success. And while not all families succeed in our program, thankfully, most do. They are driven by the desire to improve their lives and give their children a better life. They leave our program with new skills, strong in their recovery, with confidence that they can achieve more. .

I hope we can count on your continued support, whether it be financial, in-kind, or hours of your time. Call me at 891-2977 ext 205 if you would like to become part of our success stories and our Esplanade House family.

-Gloria.



GRADUATE SPOTLIGHT: TAMMY B

On February 10, 2004, my house was raided by BINTF (Butte Interagency Narcotics Task Force) and I was arrested me for possession of a controlled substance. I lost my 2 boys, ages 10 and 16, my job of 5 years, and my home. I went to jail for 32 days. This gave me a lot of time to think about what I had done. When released, I immediately enrolled in an outpatient treatment center. If I ever wanted to get my children back, I would have to get clean and have a safe place to live. When I put an application in at the Esplanade House, I was homeless, nervous and excited. They told me I would have to wait for an opening, and thankfully one became available in January of 2005. The staff and the residents immediately made me feel welcome, asking if I needed food, dishes, towels, etc., that if I did, they had a donation's room. I got custody of my oldest son at that time, and his brother soon after.

I was assigned a case manager to go over my life goals. We drew up a plan and I got a schedule every week to keep me on track .It was scary at first, there were a lot of rules, but now I see why. I really enjoyed the different classes they offered here, like nutrition, the dangers of smoking for you and your children, and how to quit smoking. We had a daily Living Skills meeting in the morning that helped get us focused and to share any concerns.

I was also able to learn how to use computers with help from Chico State students, who showed me how to do my resume and forward it to employers through the internet. Another class

that was offered here was tutoring for passing the GED. I took this class and I passed after 35 years of not having it and not even trying!

One of my goals was to be able to clean up my credit history, and I was able to make payments for past wreckage I did. I also followed through with my health issues, and my dental work. I have to admit, sometimes the room checks got on my nerves, but I see how it has instilled an automatic clean mode for my son and I.

I moved out of the Esplanade House on May 1, 2006, and (because I could now pass a credit check,) moved into my own mobile home! I am working and able to live within a budget. I am still attending the aftercare counseling, and am grateful for so many things that Esplanade House had to offer...it changed my life.

This is a big thank you to everyone; staff, volunteers, and the donors who don't even know me...you're awesome!

Love, Tami B. Graduate from The Esplanade House!

**Spotlight on Community Angel**

We would like to thank **Marsha Scheeline of Papa Murphy's Pizza** for delivering pizza to all of our phase one families on the last Tuesday of the month. This is a big treat that the families really look forward to! Papa Murphy's have been long-time supporters and have truly been a "Community Angel". **If your business would like to help, call Gloria at 891-2977.**



### 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. 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 Gloria at the Esplanade House at 891-2977.

### 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 DallingDesign.com for donating the layout for The Esplanade House Newsletter.**