

CITY OF PALMDALE

MEDIA ALERT

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DATE: May 7, 2015

PHOTO/INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITY

WHAT: Recital by students of Gabriel's House, a City of Palmdale Neighborhood House.

WHEN: **TONIGHT, Thursday, May 7, 7 pm**

WHERE: The Palmdale Playhouse, 38334 10th St. East, Palmdale

WHO: Mayor Jim Ledford and members of the Palmdale City Council; Mike Miller, City of Palmdale Director of Neighborhood Services; Terri-Lei Wheeler, Housing Coordinator; and local residents.

VISUALS: Students performing musical selections, displaying artwork and photography, dance selections exhibiting the cultural richness of our community, etc. stemming from the classes they have taken at Gabriel's House. Additionally, two of the disciplines will actually be holding classes during the recital, photography and filmmaking.

BACKGROUND: The Palmdale City Council voted unanimously to approve the dedication of a Neighborhood House dedicated to enhancing the lives of our children. That action gave the community "Gabriel's House" (38533 4th St. East), in memory of eight-year-old Gabriel Fernandez who was tragically killed. Staffed by volunteer instructors, "Gabriel's House" serves as a music and performing arts center to provide children in the area with the opportunity to develop their creative talents. These programs are provided free to students, and generously sponsored by the Warnack Family Foundation, so that a family's finances are not a barrier to this education and creativity.

Guitar, Hip Hop dance and drum classes were offered in 2014. For 2015 the pencil drawing, Folklorico dance, photography and filmmaking workshops were introduced, and starting right after the recital, performing arts workshops with drama and vocals will start.

Residents can stop by Gabriel's House, and each of the City's Neighborhood Houses, to learn more about services and programs offered free to the community (parenting, healthy eating, Community Gardens, immigration questions, consumer affairs, mediation and more, in addition to the after school program for grades 1 through 6). This summer will include a free lunch program in partnership with the Palmdale School District.

INFO: For more information, please call Neighborhood Services 661/267-5126.

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