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CITY OF PALMDALE

NEWS RELEASE

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Open House Set for Gabriel's House to Unveil New Programs

PALMDALE – The City of Palmdale, in partnership with the Art Branch Foundation, will host an Open House at the City's third Neighborhood House, Gabriel's House, located at 38533 4th St. East on Saturday, Jan. 31 from 9 to 11 am. The Open House is free and open to the public.

"We're looking forward to introducing the community to some of the new classes and offerings we have going on at Gabriel's House," said Palmdale Housing Coordinator Terri-Lei Wheeler. "We've had guitar, dance and drum classes, and for 2015 we'll be introducing pencil drawing, photography and filmmaking workshops to engage our youth in the creative arts. This will be a great opportunity for people to check out what's happening and to connect with the amazing things going on at Gabriel's House."

The classes are free of charge and may include instruments and materials for free. Instructors and current students will be on hand to answer questions and register new students.

Palmdale Mayor Jim Ledford will be on hand, as well as the Gryffingear FRC Robotics Team 5012 from The Palmdale Aerospace Academy who will provide robotics demonstrations.

About Gabriel's House

The Palmdale City Council voted unanimously to approve the dedication of a home in Focus Neighborhood 3 for a new Neighborhood House, and name it "Gabriel's House" in memory of eight-year-old Gabriel Fernandez who was tragically killed. Working with local partners, "Gabriel's House" will serve as a music and performing arts center to provide children in the area with the opportunity to develop their creative talents.

About the Warnack Foundation

The Warnack Foundation's charitable endeavors and activities shall be for the primary benefit of the people of the City of Palmdale California, and surrounding areas, with special emphasis on the youth, senior citizens, job training, education, general welfare and health, recreation facilities, and/or parks. The Foundation donated \$20,000 to Gabriel's house for musical instruments, sheet music, equipment and miscellaneous supplies.

About the Art Branch

Mission Statement : To impact the well-being of the youth by providing learning centers and educational curriculum that support integrity and life-enhancing principles through the arts.

Overview: The Art Branch is designed to fulfill the need of a one-stop center where youth between the ages of 10-17 can express themselves in a positive, constructive manner through the arts (film, drama, dance, photography, music, visual

arts). The Art Branch is a safe, communal haven where youth can explore and discover their talents.

The Art Branch is a proactive approach to directly address the nation's growing mental health crisis amongst the youth such as: suicide, depression, gang violence, truancy, school dropouts and teen pregnancy by engaging communities across the country to support youth of all cultural backgrounds and economic status in their pursuit of well-being.

The Art Branch will serve as a supportive system for the youth through mentorship of entertainers in the arts, volunteers and instructors. Youth will gain artistic skills and art appreciation as well as character development which includes self-respect, respect for others, leadership, work ethic, team work and giving back to the community.

INFO: Kim Lu, Art Branch Foundation 310/806-8496.