

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## CITY OF PALMDALE

### *NEWS RELEASE*

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#### Palmdale Playhouse to Host “Inaugural Recital of Gabriel’s House”

PALMDALE – The City of Palmdale in partnership with the Warnack Foundation will present an Art Branch Foundation production titled “The Inaugural Recital of Gabriel’s House” on Thursday, Sept. 25 at 6:30 pm, at the Playhouse located at 38334 10<sup>th</sup> St. East. The event is free and open to the public.

Students who have been attending classes at “Gabriel’s House,” located at 38533 4<sup>th</sup> St. East, one of the City of Palmdale’s five Neighborhood Houses, will showcase what they have learned since the house opened on stage at the Playhouse.

“Working with local partners, ‘Gabriel’s House’ is a music and performing arts center serving the downtown community in Palmdale, providing children and young adults with the opportunity to develop their creative talents free of charge through music, visual arts, dance, and acting,” said Palmdale Housing Coordinator Terri-Lei Wheeler. “In less than twelve months, students have made great achievements and will be showcasing their new found abilities.”

“It is sure to be a wonderful evening for these young people to ‘show their stuff,’” said Palmdale’s Neighborhood Services Director Mike Miller. “Please join us for a night of success, accomplishment and encouragement.”

#### ***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.