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CITY OF PALMDALE

NEWS RELEASE

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SCE, Youth Build and City of Palmdale Partner for
“MLK Day of Service” Event on Saturday

PALMDALE – The City of Palmdale’s “2015 Season of Service” program has added a new event to this year’s roster, thanks to a generous \$5,000 grant from Southern California Edison and a collaboration with Antelope Valley Youth Build.

The “MLK Day of Service with Youth Build” will take place on Saturday, Jan. 17, beginning with a clean up event from 9 am to 12 noon at the Palmdale Dream Center, 38518 5th Street East in Palmdale, (5th St. & Ave. Q-5).

Members of Youth Build, City staff and volunteers will work on completing clean up at the site and the surrounding community. In addition they will be working on community assessment and distributing flyers for local resources, as well as hosting a community informational session on a job training program.

Interested volunteers may email Youth Build’s Sonia Hernandez at shernandez@avyouthbuild.com or call 661/266-8900.

“We’re so grateful to SCE for their significant donation that honors the life work and mission of a true American hero, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.,” said Neighborhood Services Director Mike Miller. “Our collaboration with Youth Build continues to grow and thrive, engaging the youth in our community and preparing them for a positive future.”

The City’s ‘Season of Service’ is part of the City’s participation in the “National Day of Service” in recognition of Jan. 20 being Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day. “The program is designed to provide residents with an opportunity to make a difference in their community

by way of an organized event, or for them to develop their own projects in the spirit of Dr. King's call to service," said Community Programs Supervisor Trish Jones.

Other projects in the 2015 "Season of Service" will include:

Desert Dazzle - Saturday, Jan. 24 — Clean up of illegal dumping at Avenue R and 70th Street East

Manzanita Magic - Saturday, Feb. 28 — Park clean-up and rehabilitation of Manzanita Heights Park – 5th St West and Mesa Verde St.

Courson – Clean & Green - Saturday, March 28 – Courson Park/SAVES/Recreation & Culture clean-up and rehabilitation.

Global Youth Service Day – Saturday, April 25

Youth, families and the young at heart are invited to participate in a park beautification at one of Palmdale's most beloved parks. A continuation of the park clean-up and rehabilitation from 2014 Season of Service project.

Location: Marie Kerr Park, 2723 Rancho Vista Blvd., Palmdale, CA 93551

Registration for these four events will begin at 8 am. Participants must be at least 12 years of age. Volunteers under age 16 must be accompanied by an adult. All participants must complete a Release of Liability (available at www.cityofpalmdale.org or at event registration). Participants are requested to wear close-toed shoes and be prepared/able to walk over uneven terrain, and use work gloves and sun protection. The Palmdale Water District is generously donating water for the participants. Verification of service hours is available.

"Last year, Palmdale residents donated over 40,000 hours of service towards making Palmdale an even better place to live," Jones said. "All it takes to volunteer is a willingness to give, an interest in your community, and your time. There is no minimum number of hours required, every hour donated is valuable. And, there's practically no limit to how you can get involved."

“We encourage residents to participate in one or all of these opportunities to help make Palmdale an even better place to call home,” Jones stated. “Or if you want to get involved but just aren’t sure what you’re interested in, give us a call at 267-5665, and we can help you identify areas of interest. Or you can visit us online at www.cityofpalmdale.org/ServiceDays.”

“Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said it best when he said, ‘Life’s most persistent and urgent question is: ‘What are you doing for others?’” added Jones. “The ‘Season of Service’ events give us all the opportunity to serve our neighbors by and build value in our community.”

For more information, call 661/267-5181.

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