



**Martha's**  
VILLAGE & KITCHEN

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **MARTHA'S VILLAGE & KITCHEN TO KICK OFF YOUTH SOCCER ACADEMY**

**Coachella Valley Homeless and impoverished youth to receive opportunity to learn soccer.**

Indio, CA, October 25, 2016– On October 27, Martha's Village and Kitchen's Child Development Center will begin offering Coachella Valley homeless and impoverished youth an opportunity to learn and play soccer. The Academy's first class will include 20 students ages 3-5 and will meet on a regular basis. Many of the students will be residents in Martha's Transitional Housing Program which provides housing and wrap-around services to homeless individuals and families in Coachella Valley. Martha's Child Development Center offers high-quality, licensed child-care for children ages zero through five years of age, free of cost for families who are living in the Residential Village at Martha's or children who are living in the shelters, on the street, transitioning out of homeless shelters, children of teen parents, children with special needs, children of impoverished families in the community and grandparents who are raising grandchildren.

*Martha's Village & Kitchen CEO and President, Linda Barrack remarked, "we are excited to expand the amount of physical activity provided to our students especially in an effort to combat the disparity in athletic opportunities between homeless and impoverished youth and those afforded to more affluent youth."*

The soccer training will be provided by Martha's Village & Kitchen staff member, Matt Phillips. Phillips is a US Youth Certified Soccer Coach, Desert United Club Coach, and a former Michigan State University Soccer player named three times to the All Big-Ten Academic Soccer Team. Additionally, Martha's recently received a donation of new soccer balls (one for each child), goals, and cones.

*Martha's Children's Services Program Supervisor, Norma Loreda elaborated, "the overwhelmingly majority of our students are below the poverty line and taking care*

*of their basic needs is the priority. Unfortunately, our kids generally don't get an opportunity to be exposed to an organized athletics experience. Martha's Village Soccer Academy will allow the kids to not only experience playing soccer, but will provide lessons on teamwork, cooperation, and hard work."*

Martha's Village & Kitchen is one of the largest homeless services provider in Riverside County. The mission of Martha's is to help its neighbors in need throughout the Coachella Valley break the cycle of homelessness and poverty by attaining self-sufficiency through an innovative continuum of care, multi-disciplinary programs, and community partnerships. The free services at Martha's touch thousands of homeless and impoverished men, women, and children each year through primary and preventive healthcare, serving over 225,000 meals a year, case management, licensed free child care, mental health and recovery services, career coaching and continuing adult education, in addition to clothing, rent assistance, and utility assistance.

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If you would like more information about this topic, please contact Stephanie Minor at 760.347.4741 et. 121 or email at [sminor@marthasvillage.org](mailto:sminor@marthasvillage.org).