

## **Martha's Village and Kitchen**

83-791 Date Avenue

Indio, California 92201

<http://marthasvillage.org>

# Martha's

VILLAGE & KITCHEN

TOGETHER WE ARE CHANGING LIVES!

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Media Contact:** Larissa Kerstetter

[lkerstetter@marthasvillage.org](mailto:lkerstetter@marthasvillage.org)

760-347-4741 ext. 120

## **Homelessness and Poverty and the COVID-19 in the Coachella Valley**

COACHELLA VALLEY – (March 16, 2020) – Martha's Village and Kitchen reminds the community that without proper resources, people experiencing homelessness and poverty are especially vulnerable to communicable diseases—including the current outbreak of coronavirus, COVID-19. Homelessness itself threatens the immune system: Sleep—if any—is cut short, there is an overall lack of nutrition, sanitation is scarce, and health and dental care are almost nonexistent. Without accessible, permanent, and stable housing, people lack access to water for handwashing, laundry facilities, and personal hygiene.

Martha's Village and Kitchen provides housing stability to 120 seniors, children, families and individuals each night at their facilities in Indio. This housing provides stability for a better functioning immune system, the infrastructure for handwashing and general sanitation, and the safety for rest, sleep, proper nutrition, and allows for social distancing.

The Coachella Valley's seniors are especially vulnerable as well. Martha's Village and Kitchen serves over 900 seniors each year. The agency is already seeing a large demand and increase for services to this vulnerable population in the community. Additionally, now that schools and many programs for children have shuttered, Martha's is seeing an increase in demand for food and other emergency services for children and their families.

Martha's is requesting financial donations from businesses and the community to support the onslaught of needs and hard to acquire supplies due to the Coronavirus. President and CEO, Linda Barrack, says, ““We always stand at the ready to serve the community. The fast-changing circumstances related to the Coronavirus have put an enormous need for supplies that we simply do not have the funding for. We also need to increase staff, so that we can take care of the most vulnerable in our community. Understandably, we have seen an extensive drop in our volunteers over the last few days.” To help the most vulnerable in our Valley, please donate at

[www.MarthasVillage.org](http://www.MarthasVillage.org)

### **About Martha's Village and Kitchen**

Martha's Village & Kitchen is one of the largest providers of homeless services in the Coachella Valley and Riverside County. The organization began in 1990 when the founders served meals to their homeless neighbors. Today, from its campus in Indio, CA, Martha's Village offers unique life-changing programs based on the nationally-recognized “continuum of care model” breaking the cycle of homelessness. Through this gateway to hope, people regain their lives becoming responsible, self-sufficient and productive citizens while passing on their newfound independence and life skills to their children and families. Changing one person's life, changes generations of lives. [www.marthasvillage.org](http://www.marthasvillage.org)