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6th Council District



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEDIA ADVISORY

Andres and Maria Cardenas Recreation Center Gives Hope to a Community of a Violent Past

Panorama City- In March, Councilman Tony Cardenas joined the residents of Blythe Street in Panorama City to celebrate the opening of a brand new recreation and park center named after his parents, Andres and Maria Cardenas. Andres and Maria Cardenas persevered through tremendous challenges with only first and second grade educations, had a family of eleven children, and miraculously witnessed their children graduate high school AND COLLEGE despite their humble means. The Cardenas family grew up in a lower-income neighborhood that was all too familiar with gang activity. In memory of the Cardenas' plight and successes, the building was erected in their name to remind the Blythe Street community that there is always hope in the face of hardship and adversity.

The highly-anticipated new center sits in an area known to have some of the highest crime statistics in the Valley. In fact, the area held the city's first gang injunction. The recreation center is a reminder that there are alternatives to the surrounding violence. It sits near Casa Esperanza, a 5700-square-foot facility that offers computer labs for kids, parenting classes for adults, and numerous activities to keep the community involved. Councilman Tony Cardenas was helpful in securing funding for Casa Esperanza in order to expand classes and activities.

Casa Esperanza, which also houses a food distribution center and library, will help the Andres and Maria Cardenas Recreation Center with program initiation, class content, and activities.

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