



## ***NEWS RELEASE***

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City of Rancho Cordova

### **RANCHO CORDOVA, CA DEDICATES YOUTH CENTER ON MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY *Making a Dream Come True to Support Local Youth***

Rancho Cordova, CA (January 20, 2020) – Today on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, the City of Rancho Cordova and Center of Praise Ministries dedicated a site in Rancho Cordova as a future youth center, coming one step closer to its dream for local youth.

Center of Praise Ministries in Sacramento has agreed to lease a 1.75-acre property, which includes a 9,000 square foot building, at no cost to the city for 25 years with the option to extend for another 25 years, so the property can be transformed into a youth center.

“Our faith community has always had a vision for the City of Rancho Cordova, the place that our ministry began some 30 years ago,” said Bishop Parnell M. Lovelace, Jr., Center of Praise Ministries. “We wanted to continue our investment into the lives of young people, who are often underserved within this specific location of our property. The future youth center will be in the geographical center of Rancho Cordova, and it is notably located on Investment Circle because we are investing in youth. Our partnership with the city, Rancho Cordova Police Department, and Serve Sacramento, Inc., will fulfill the dream to empower our youth and their families.”

Nearly 75,000 residents call Rancho Cordova their home. Multiple programs are available from community organizations to support local youth, from sports leagues to leadership programs. A youth center has been a long-time dream for the community.

“We are excited to partner with Center of Praise Ministries to fulfill our dream of bringing the first youth center since cityhood to Rancho Cordova,” said Rancho Cordova Mayor David Sander. “The future youth center will provide a welcoming, central and safe environment for year-round youth programs, build relationships with

local youth, and show local youth how much the community cares about their success and future in Rancho Cordova.”

Residents, children and community partners attended the dedication ceremony and enjoyed a community breakfast, tours of the existing building and site, speaking program, and ribbon cutting. Attendees also had an opportunity to share their dreams for the future youth center by writing them on a poster.

“How appropriate to dedicate the Rancho Cordova Youth Center on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day,” said Bishop Lovelace. “This monumental occasion affirms the words of Dr. King, ‘Everyone can be great, because everyone can serve.’ We have chosen to partner together in order to serve our young people, that they may aspire to serve others for generations to come.”

The city, in partnership with the Rancho Cordova Police Activities League (PAL), will operate the future youth center in collaboration with other community and nonprofit organizations.

Rancho Cordova PAL is a nonprofit organization that builds relationships between the Rancho Cordova Police Department and youth by offering a variety of free programs, providing positive role models, and supporting our children’s growth. High school junior Anthony Lacayo has been involved with Rancho Cordova PAL since he was in fourth grade and looks forward to having a youth center in his community.

“I am excited to have a place in Rancho Cordova that we can call our own,” said Lacayo. “At the future youth center, kids will be able to learn what is available for them and participate in programs and activities. It will also be a place kids can go to if they’re going through something and want to hang out or need a helping hand, as they will be surrounded by role models and peers they can rely on.”

In the coming months, the city will develop a vision for the future youth center with community input and feedback. The city has tentatively set aside \$1 million for renovations and upgrades to the property. Stay tuned to the city’s social media channels and e-newsletters for more information.

Community members who are interested in supporting the youth center can do so by:

1. Donating monetarily to support the project
2. Donating materials to the project: wish list coming soon
3. Contributing trade expertise to the project

For additional information and an online press kit, please visit [CityofRanchoCordova.org/YouthCenter](http://CityofRanchoCordova.org/YouthCenter).

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