



**DESERT HEALTHCARE DISTRICT AND FOUNDATION HIRES
FIND FOOD BANK'S LISA HOUSTON AS COO
*Implementation of Comprehensive Three-Year Strategic Plan Continues***

COACHELLA VALLEY - November 17, 2017 - The Desert Healthcare District and Foundation (DHCD/F) is pleased to announce the hiring of Lisa Houston as its Chief Operating Officer.

In this new role, Houston will provide management of day-to-day operations as well as lead the implementation of DHCD/F's programmatic, resources and philanthropy, and grant making activities.

DHCD/F is one of the largest funders in the Coachella Valley, currently granting more than \$4 million annually to nonprofit, community-based, and provider organizations. These funds are used to assist residents — especially the underserved — access vitally needed resources, such as primary and behavioral health care, housing, food, and transportation.

Ms. Houston joins the DHCD/F after serving as CEO and President of FIND Food Bank, the only regional food bank serving eastern Riverside and southern San Bernardino Counties, distributing more than 10 million pounds of food assistance annually.

“Ms. Houston’s dedication and commitment to the entire Coachella Valley community is well recognized and respected,” said DHCD/F Board President Carole Rogers. “Her leadership and partnership on food insecurity programming has benefited more than a hundred local partner organizations and more than 85,000 residents across the District and the entire Coachella Valley. The Board welcomes her wholeheartedly to the Desert Healthcare District and Foundation.”

In June 2017, after an extensive, public, valley-wide process, DHCD/F adopted a new vision as well as a transformational and comprehensive strategic plan: “Connecting Coachella Valley residents to health and wellness programs and services through resources and philanthropy, health facilities, information and community education, and public policy.”

This “One Coachella Valley” approach will guide DHCD/F’s activities for three years, including philanthropic initiatives incorporated into four community health focus areas: homelessness; access to primary and behavioral health care; healthy eating and active living; and quality, safety, accountability, and transparency.

“Ms. Houston’s considerable skills and community-focused experience will be a great addition to the team and better enable DHCD/F to fully implement the Board’s new vision and strategic plan to benefit Coachella Valley residents on an ongoing basis,” added Desert Healthcare District and Foundation CEO Herb K. Schultz.

About Desert Health Care District and Foundation

The Desert Healthcare District is a 70-year old local government agency whose mission is to achieve optimal health at all stages of life for all District residents. The District includes more than 200,000 residents and encompasses the cities of Desert Hot Springs, Palm Springs, Cathedral City, Rancho Mirage, Palm Desert (west of Cook Street), and unincorporated areas of Riverside County. The Board’s strategic vision, to meet this important mission, is incorporated as a part of its comprehensive three-year strategic plan which was adopted in June 2017. The new vision states: “Connecting Coachella Valley residents to health and wellness programs and services through resources and philanthropy, health facilities, information and community education, and public policy.” The District and its affiliated non-profit Desert Healthcare Foundation together, one of the largest funders in the Coachella Valley, grant more than \$4 million annually to nonprofit, community-based, and provider organizations in the Coachella Valley. These funds are used to assist residents — especially the underserved — access vitally needed resources, such as primary and behavioral health care, housing, food, and transportation resources.

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