



**DESERT HEALTHCARE DISTRICT PROMOTES ACCESS TO RECREATION FOR ALL
IN PALM SPRINGS AND THROUGHOUT COACHELLA VALLEY**

PALM SPRINGS, Calif. – October 11, 2016 – The Desert Healthcare District is continuing its commitment to health promotion and community collaboration to improve the health, quality of life and access to recreation for residents of Palm Springs and Coachella Valley.

On the heels of the unveiling of a newly designed, state-of-the-art ADA all-inclusive, accessible playground structure in the City of Palm Springs, the District has partnered with the City's Parks and Recreation and Measure J Commissions, the United Cerebral Palsy of the Inland Empire, Palm Springs Police Chief Bryan Reyes, Fire Chief Kevin Nalder and world famous boxer Timothy Bradley, Jr. to present "Heroes in the Park: A Celebration of Special Needs Children and Their Friends and Families."

The event, scheduled for Saturday, October 15 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., will feature a health and wellness fair and a host of fun activities and sports clinics for more than 100 special needs children and their friends and families, including a 1K Walk.

The event will highlight several transformational ADA projects that have been completed to make the City of Palm Springs more accessible than ever, including audio pedestrian push buttons at traffic signal intersections, hundreds of upgraded accessible curb ramps and new accessible perimeter walkways.

Another ADA inclusive resource in the city is The Wellness Park. Built by the District in 2005, the five-acre park located at the corner of Via Miraleste and Tachevah Road in Palm Springs, was designed to encourage fitness and disease prevention for community members. The park offers a quarter-mile walking and jogging loop, various gardens and ADA compliant exercise equipment at five exercise stations throughout the park. Adjacent to Desert Regional Medical Center, the park also provides a rich opportunity for patients, their visiting family and friends, staff and local residents to exercise, unwind, relax, meditate and improve their health.

The "Heroes in the Park" partnership and continued maintenance of the Wellness Park are just two examples of the District's continued commitment to improving the health and quality of life for Palm Springs and all District residents.

About Desert Healthcare District

The Desert Healthcare District is a local government agency that has been committed to the health of its 230,000 residents for more than 65 years. The District believes every resident in its territory, the cities of Palm Springs, Desert Hot Springs, Rancho Mirage, Thousand Palms, Cathedral City, Mountain Center and Palm Desert, deserves access to health education, disease prevention and comprehensive diagnostic and treatment services, and the opportunity to participate in District matters through access and input to the board. The District supports positive health system change via incorporating best-practice methodologies where possible; encouraging accurate outcome measurement by benchmarking, monitoring and evaluation; supporting innovative new practices and programs; and fostering collaboration and partnerships.