

Media Advisory – Celebrity Chef Holds Cooking “Boot Camp” for Kids in Youth Detention Facility

Sacramento, CA – July 14, 2017

WHAT: Celebrity Chef, Jeff Henderson, best known as “Chef Jeff,” will visit the Youth Detention Facility (YDF) to hold a cooking “boot camp” for a small group of youth. The hands-on demonstration will be given in the YDF Kitchen where the youth will learn basic cooking and hospitality skills, incorporating produce they have grown in the YDF Garden. Chef Jeff will also give a motivational speech to a larger group of residents in the facility, stressing the importance of setting positive goals, getting a good education, and learning about career opportunities available to them when they return to their communities.

WHEN: July 17, 2017, at 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

WHERE: Sacramento County Probation Department Youth Detention Facility, 9601 Kiefer Boulevard, Sacramento, CA 95827

VISUALS: Chef Jeff giving a small group of Youth Detention Facility residents hands-on cooking instruction and addressing a larger group of residents on topics related to leadership, teamwork, overcoming personal obstacles, taking direction, communication and delegation, attention to detail, and hope.

RESOURCES: Chef Jeff Henderson is creator of the Food Network reality show series, “The Chef Jeff Project.” He is also the host of the new innovative television series “Flip My Food.”

Chef Jeff, one of the most influential chefs in the country, discovered his passion and gift for cooking in an unlikely place: prison. He uses his journey from drug dealer to Celebrity Chef to help others transform their lives and live their dreams.

Chef Jeff is also a highly sought-after motivational and public speaker, an award-winning chef, and author of the New York Times best-seller *Cooked: My Journey from Streets to Stove*. Probation Assistant Tiffany Merritt, who operates the YDF Library, added the book to the library’s collection where it became very popular with the residents. It was at the persistent requests of the residents that Chef Jeff was invited to come speak at YDF.

The YDF Library Program promotes literacy and education. Over the past two years, several authors have been invited to YDF through the program to speak to the youth, including Dr. Samuel Huddleston, author of *Five Years to Life*, Kali Muscle, author of *Ex-Con to Icon*, Stephanie Lahart, author of *Overcoming Life’s Obstacles*, Jason Reynolds, author of *When I Was the Greatest*, and Brendan Kiely, author of *The Last True Love Story*, *The Gospel of Winter*, and co-author of *All American Boys*.

The Youth Detention Facility also offers a Garden Program to residents. It teaches them to cultivate various types of produce they can harvest and prepare, which will be used in Chef Jeff’s demonstration.

On average, the Youth Detention Facility houses approximately 145 residents per day.

"We are honored and grateful to have Chef Jeff speak to and educate our youth in the facility. He is the very model of how setting positive goals, getting an education, and working hard can change a person's life, no matter what his/her past may hold." – Sacramento County Chief Probation Officer, Lee Seale

"Many of the kids in our facility have stories similar to Chef Jeff's, and they are so inspired by the way he has successfully turned his life around; he gives them hope of a future they may have once thought impossible or unimaginable." – Youth Detention Facility Assistant Chief Deputy, Ruby Jones

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