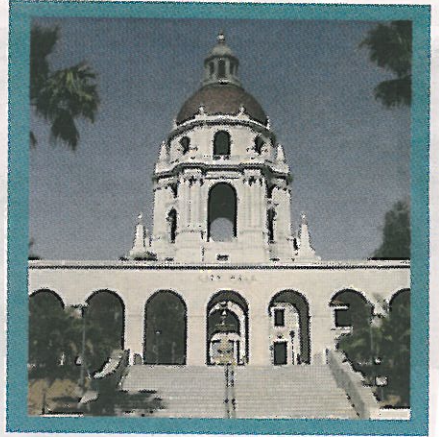


Pasadena Outlook

THURSDAY, JULY 8, 2010 • VOL. 4 NO. 27



AbilityFirst Center Adds Basketball Court

A new outdoor basketball court, made possible by a grant from the CIBA Foundation, will be used by more than 100 special-needs children who attend AbilityFirst's Lawrence L. Frank Center in Pasadena. It will be dedicated during a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Friday, July 9, from 10-11:30 a.m.

The event will also feature a basketball scrimmage by the center's Toros and a performance by its drill team. Children served by the center, as well as AbilityFirst and CIBA Foundation representatives and friends of AbilityFirst are expected to attend.

The CIBA Foundation is a charitable organization based in Glendale that is committed to enriching and strengthening the lives of disadvantaged and disabled children. It was founded by CIBA Insurance Services, a commercial insurance program for property owners and managers.

Because of the grant, AbilityFirst was able to install new backboards to existing posts, rims, nets, post padding and court striping for a 50-foot-by-40-foot outdoor practice court. It will result in increased basketball play and practice, AbilityFirst inter-

center league games and inclusion practices and games between kids with special needs and their non-disabled peers in the community. In addition, the new court incorporates healthy living activities into AbilityFirst programs offered at the center.

"Thanks to the CIBA Foundation grant, we are now able to expand our programs to include more healthy living activities such as physical fitness," said Lori Gangemi, president and CEO of AbilityFirst. "In addition to the exercise it provides, the basketball curriculum builds peer relationships through teamwork and decreases the feelings of isolation that many children and teens with disabilities experience."

"We are proud supporters of AbilityFirst and the wonderful work they do in the community," said Michael Marino, founder of the CIBA Foundation. "We are thrilled to be able to help them expand their healthy living activities."

AbilityFirst's Lawrence L. Frank Center is located at 201 S. Kinneloa Ave. For more information about its programs and services, visit www.abilityfirst.org/frankcenter or call (626) 449-5661.