

## Celebrating 95 years

As we celebrate our 95th Anniversary, AbilityFirst continues to innovate and expand. The Building Independence, Celebrating Community campaign kicked-off with a ground breaking ceremony in April at our Long Beach Center located at 3370 E. Willow Street.

Our Center serves residents of Long Beach and the surrounding communities, such as Bellflower, Carson, Lakewood, Los Alamitos, Seal Beach, and Torrance. The newly renovated facility will serve more than 500 individuals, with significant improvements focused on accessibility, and upgrades for safety and efficiency.

The AbilityFirst capital campaign is at 90% of the \$5.9 million goal. We have \$700,000 left to raise, and we need your support and generosity. Your investment in our campaign will empower AbilityFirst and our participants to do our best work, explore, and achieve our goals.

The Long Beach Center opened at its current location in 1966.

The Center's renovation and programmatic changes will support after-school and adult programs, warm water aquatics, and weekend social and recreational activities. The renovations address current and future programming needs. For example, a new state-of-the-art kitchen will ensure that participants learn valuable cooking and safety skills.

To learn more about our Capital Campaign, naming opportunities and to make a donation, please contact:

Lauren Rayner, Chief Development Officer at 626.243.4844 or email [lrayner@abilityfirst.org](mailto:lrayner@abilityfirst.org)

April Stover, Senior Director of Programs at 562.264.1617 or email [astover@abilityfirst.org](mailto:astover@abilityfirst.org)



Long Beach Center Ground Breaking Ceremony

### College to Career and Supported Employment Programs

Each person is supported to achieve his or her best. At AbilityFirst we look beyond disabilities, and focus on the capabilities to expand the possibilities.

The renovations will create more space for our ever expanding Supported Employment Program, and also be a gathering place for our new program, Career to College. This program is to create and promote career and technical opportunities leading to gainful employment. Our educational coaches provide a support system to help our participants and their families transition from high school to college.



Design of kitchen remodel



Capital Campaign Committee: Linda Silver, Deloris Mayuga, Henry Taboada, Mary Alice Braly, Julie Taboada, Caroline Hansen, Joan Alderson, and April Stover (Gloria Deukmejian and Bob Braly (not pictured))



Renovations to indoor pool used for water safety and swim lessons for program participants. The pool is also open to senior citizens in the community

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