



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **AbilityFirst Gourmet Festival of Fall Sponsored by Union Bank Continues to Raise Funds *The 40th Annual Event Was Hosted by NBC4's Award-winning Journalist Whit Johnson***

**South Pasadena, CA – October 9, 2014** – The AbilityFirst 40th annual Gourmet Festival of Fall event, presented by Union Bank, was attended by 400 guests.. The fundraiser was hosted at the home of Mary and Bill Urquhart in South Pasadena. Emcee for the evening was award-winning journalist Whit Johnson, co-anchor of NBC4's weekday morning newscast "Today in LA."

"I thank the hundreds of supporters and numerous businesses that donated their money, services and auction items," said Lori Gangemi, CEO at AbilityFirst. "We especially want to thank Union Bank for their many years of involvement and support, and we want to thank NBC4 for their contribution and providing us with a fabulous host, Whit Johnson."

AbilityFirst is close to reaching their fundraising goal to continue the much needed programs and services for individuals with special needs. To support this great cause, it is asking the public to help them reach their goal by visiting their many online auction items through BiddingForGood at [www.biddingforgood.com/abilityfirst](http://www.biddingforgood.com/abilityfirst), or, be treated to a great meal at one of the featured restaurants; Trattoria Neapolis October 13<sup>th</sup> [www.trattorianeapolis.com](http://www.trattorianeapolis.com), or, Pizza Rev October 21<sup>st</sup> [www.pizzarev.com](http://www.pizzarev.com). Both restaurants will donate 10%-15% of the proceeds from the purchase back to AbilityFirst.

Funds raised will benefit two of the 25 AbilityFirst locations - AbilityFirst Lawrence L. Frank Center located in Pasadena as well as the AbilityFirst Pasadena Work Center. Since 1968 these two centers have provided individuals with developmental disabilities – including autism, cerebral palsy, epilepsy and Down syndrome – programs to help them reach their full potential. These include after-school, adult day, social recreation and community aquatic programs, as well as employment for adults with disabilities.

Union Bank has been a Presenting Sponsor for the past five years. It's an annual event where mingling goes hand-in-hand with sampling exquisite gourmet cuisine prepared by prominent local Pasadena and San Gabriel Valley restaurants. Fine beverages by California vintners and brewers were also served. This extraordinary evening also featured live and silent auctions on items such as an exclusive Kentucky Bourbon Trail experience, VIP Rose Parade tickets, television show tapings, private wine tastings, gift certificates to local businesses such as restaurants, museums and other services, and unique items for the home.

#### **About AbilityFirst**

Since 1926 [AbilityFirst](http://www.abilityfirst.org), formerly Crippled Children's Society of Southern California, provides programs and services to help children and adults with disabilities reach their full potential. Through 25 locations across Southern California, they offer a broad range of employment, recreational and socialization programs as well as an accessible camp, Camp Paivika, for both children and adults.

#### **About MUFG Union Bank**

MUFG Union Bank, N.A., is a full-service bank with offices across the United States. We provide a wide spectrum of corporate, commercial, retail banking and wealth management solutions to meet the needs of customers. The bank also offers an extensive portfolio of value-added solutions for customers, including investment banking, personal trust, capital markets, global treasury management, transaction banking and other services. With assets of \$108.8 billion (USD), as of June 30, 2014, the bank has strong capital reserves, credit ratings and capital ratios relative to peer banks. MUFG Union Bank is a proud member of the Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group (NYSE: MTU), one of the world's largest financial organizations with total assets of approximately ¥259 trillion (JPY) or \$2.5 trillion (USD),<sup>1</sup> as of June 30, 2014. MUFG Americas Holdings Corporation, the financial holding company and MUFG Union Bank, N.A., have corporate headquarters in New York City. Visit [www.unionbank.com](http://www.unionbank.com) for more information.

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