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**Push America Visits AbilityFirst Long Beach Center – Raising Funds
For People with Disabilities**

Long Beach CA (June 4, 2014) – AbilityFirst Long Beach Center received a visit from the organization known as Push America. Push America raises funds and awareness for people with physical and intellectual disabilities. Their mission is to build leaders of tomorrow by serving people with disabilities today.

The event “Journey of Hope” is a 4,000 mile cross country cycling trip. Pi Kappa Phi is a national fraternity working with Push America that raises money for the organizations they support. 90 members from three different groups of Pi Kappa Phi members will make this incredible journey. Included in their trip was their Kick-Off held at the AbilityFirst Long Beach Center where about 40 members joined children and adults with disabilities in a Carnival setting to take part in a variety of activities including Wii Dancing, Tie-Dying t-shirts, Bounce house fun and carnival games.

Each year the Journey of Hope raises over \$500,000 for people with disabilities as well as developing an abundance of lifelong friendships. Locally, the Pi Kappa Phi chapter at CSULB raises money and supports this event and others at the Long Beach Center of AbilityFirst.

AbilityFirst Long Beach Center welcomed Push America and their members with open arms for a fun-filled afternoon of activities and lasting friendships. “Thank you Push America for making AbilityFirst Long Beach Center a part of your Journey of Hope and for taking the time through your mission to inspire others to support and join in helping children and adults with disabilities,” said Barbara Schlosser, Director of AbilityFirst Long Beach Center.

About Push America: For more information about Push America, or to get involved, please contact Mike Petko, Project Manager for the South Route Journey of Hope at (704) 574-5826 or through their website www.pushamerica.org. For more information about AbilityFirst Long Beach Center Programs, please contact Barbara Schlosser, Center Director at (562) 426-6161 or via email bschlosser@abilityfirst.org.

About AbilityFirst: [AbilityFirst](http://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 accessible residential housing complexes and an accessible camp, [Camp Paivika](#), for both children and adults.