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The Ability Experience – An Organization Raising Funds For People with Disabilities Visits AbilityFirst Long Beach Center

Long Beach CA (June 10, 2015) – The AbilityFirst Long Beach Center, which provides programs and services for children and adults with disabilities, received a friendship visit recently from The Ability Experience, a philanthropy of Pi Kappa Phi fraternity.

The Ability Experience raises funds through The Journey of Hope cross-country bike rides to promote awareness of the capabilities and challenges of people with physical and intellectual disabilities.



Friendship Visit 2015

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AbilityFirst Long Beach Center welcomed The Ability Experience and their members with open arms for a fun-filled afternoon of activities and lasting friendships. “Thank you 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.

The Journey of Hope is actually three 4,000 mile cross country cycling trips. 90 members from three different groups of Pi Kappa Phi chapters will travel from the west coast to Washington DC. Before beginning their journey, one group stopped at the AbilityFirst Long Beach Center where about 40 Ability Experience members joined children and adults with disabilities in a variety of activities including dancing, a photo booth, and relay races.

Locally, the Pi Kappa Phi chapter at CSULB has raised money and supported events at the Long Beach Center of AbilityFirst for several years. After visiting the AbilityFirst center, a group of 27



fraternity brothers and 9 trained crew members from various chapters kicked off their “Journey of Hope” to the nation’s capital Friday, June 12, 2015 from the Pine Avenue Pier. Since the campaign’s start 20 years ago, the organization has raised over \$15 million nationwide. Their mission is to build leaders of tomorrow by serving people with disabilities today.

For more information about The Ability Experience, or to get involved, please call (704) 504-2400 ext. 5388 or visit their website www.abilityexperience.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.

For over 89 years, **AbilityFirst** has provided programs and services to help children and adults with disabilities reach their full potential. Through 25 locations across Southern California, AbilityFirst offers a broad range of employment, recreational and socialization programs and operates 12 accessible residential housing complexes, as well as an accessible Camp, **Camp Paivika**. For more information visit <http://www.abilityfirst.org>