



**Media Alert:**

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**AbilityFirst Joan & Harry A. Mier Center will hold *An Afternoon of Music & Art* benefitting its Inglewood Center**

*The program to include welcome remarks from Congresswoman Maxine Waters*

**Inglewood, CA (April 26, 2017)** - AbilityFirst, a 91 year old nonprofit organization serving children and adults with disabilities is set to host a cultural celebration, *An Afternoon of Music & Art* benefitting the AbilityFirst Joan and Harry A. Mier Center (JHAM) in Inglewood, California. The event will be held on Sunday, May 7, 2017.

Presented by Union Bank, *An Afternoon of Music & Art* includes welcome remarks from Congresswoman Maxine Waters and an awards ceremony featuring five awards including the Civic Award given to the Mayor of the City of Inglewood, Honorable James T. Butts, along with a short presentation from AbilityFirst Chief Executive Officer, Lori Gangemi and Chair of the Board of Directors, John Kelly.

Longtime, committee member Berlinda Fontenot-Jamerson shares,

*"This is the fourth event of its kind supporting the AbilityFirst Joan and Harry A. Mier Center and it has truly been a labor of love. We are thrilled and privileged that Congresswoman Maxine Waters has taken time from her busy schedule to join us as Honorary Chairwoman. This event helps to bring awareness and financial support for AbilityFirst programs and services provided at the JHAM center in Inglewood."*

Located in Inglewood, the AbilityFirst Joan & Harry A. Mier Center provides year-round programs and services to children and adults with disabilities and serves the South Los Angeles communities of Inglewood, Hawthorne, Gardena, Los Angeles, South Bay, Westchester, Torrance and Lennox. Funds raised at *An Afternoon of Music & Art* will directly benefit JHAM after school and adult day programs.

**WHO:** Congresswoman Maxine Waters, Award Recipients; Mayor of Inglewood Honorable James T. Butts, President of Northrup Grumman Foundation Sandra Evers-Manly, the Los Angeles Rams, Chris Clark and Edison R. Lara. Emcee, ABC7 reporter, Leo Stallworth, AbilityFirst CEO Lori Gangemi, families, participants and community members. Presenting sponsor Union Bank. Media partners, LA Sentinel and ABC-7.

2017 Planning Committee; Ray C. Cherry, Lena Echols, Barbara Feiga, Berlinda Fontenot-Jamerson, Jacqueline Furby, Bettye R. Griffith, Mordena M. Moore, AbilityFirst Chief Development Officer Josh Chan, JHAM Center Director Jae Lim, JHAM Center Staff Gwen Willis.

**WHAT:** AbilityFirst Joan & Harry A. Mier event, An Afternoon of Music & Art – supporting people with disabilities. Tickets are \$60 for general admission and \$100 for VIP. Valet parking.

**WHEN:** Sunday, May 7, 2017 from 2pm-5pm.

**WHERE:** AbilityFirst Joan & Harry A. Mier Center, 8090 Crenshaw Blvd, Inglewood, CA 90305

**For more information and to purchase tickets, please call the Inglewood Center Director Jae Lim at 323-7533101 or [jlim@abilityfirst.org](mailto:jlim@abilityfirst.org).**

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