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## For Immediate Release

### Channel 7 News Clip:

<http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=cacc6373-a656-4508-98f3-bae7b870a890>

## Los Angeles Businesses, a Special Guest and Channel 7 All Part of the AbilityFirst Stroll & Roll Kick-Off Luncheon Celebration

LOS ANGELES, Calif. – Great energy filled the Los Angeles Athletic Club on March 7, 2013 as guest attended the 2013 AbilityFirst Stroll & Roll kick-off luncheon celebration. Opening the luncheon celebration with a welcome was our presenting sponsor Comerica Bank representative, Mike Dokmanovich, Executive Vice President Middle Market, followed by a delicious lunch and continuing on with the program which was emceed by Alysha Del Valle channel 7 morning news traffic reporter who added her charismatic personality making for an inspirational afternoon.

To add to the warmth and encouraging spirit that filled the room special guest and AbilityFirst honorary chair Jaclyn Smith was also in attendance. Her beauty and grace transcended as she mingled with AbilityFirst participants bringing smiles to everyone's face. . "It's real and genuine and AbilityFirst's desire to make things better for children and adults with disabilities comes from the heart," commented Jaclyn.

The program also included a speech from Kelly, an AbilityFirst past participant who now is an active volunteer at the AbilityFirst Lawrence L. Frank Center. Kelly is now enrolled in college and spoke about what AbilityFirst meant to her. "I love AbilityFirst, it has taught me so much," said Kelly.

"This was a great way to begin our kick-off to our largest fundraiser of the year and we are thankful for all those who attended and of course all of our wonderful sponsors that help continue our mission in helping children and adults with disabilities realize their full potential," said Lori Gangemi, President and CEO of AbilityFirst.

The AbilityFirst Stroll & Roll, presented by Comerica Bank will take place on Saturday, April 27th, at 8am with over 2,000 people of all ages joining together to walk through the "city" streets and movie backdrops to raise funds for children and adults with physical and developmental disabilities. To register for the event, donate and for more information, visit us at [www.abilityfirst.org/stroll&roll](http://www.abilityfirst.org/stroll&roll) .

Additional sponsors for the 2013 AbilityFirst Stroll & Roll include; Quetico, Chubb & Son, DIRECTV, Cisco Systems, Inc., America Chung Nam, Everest National Insurance Company, Hanover Insurance Services, National Technical Systems, One Beacon Charitable Trust, Universal Studios – Discover a Star Foundation.

- More -

### **About Ability First**

[AbilityFirst](#), formerly Crippled Children's Society of Southern California, provides programs and services to help children and adults with disabilities reach their full potential. Through 24 [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.

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