



For Immediate Release

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AbilityFirst Joan and Harry A. Mier Center Opens for Children and Adults With Disabilities in Inglewood

Inglewood, Calif. – On Friday, August 22nd, AbilityFirst held a Grand Opening ceremony for its Joan and Harry A. Mier Center to serve children and adults with disabilities. The new 6,500 square foot facility includes an indoor warm-water swimming pool. This long awaited celebration came to fruition after a 6 year, \$3.6 million Capital Campaign to completely rebuild the Center in order to better serve the community. With numerous dignitaries, volunteers, supporters and dedicated donors present, the new building is now open to help children and adults with physical and developmental disabilities through a variety of programs that are offered.

The Grand Opening Ribbon Cutting Celebration was attended by the Honorable James T. Butts, Mayor of Inglewood; the Honorable George Dotson, Councilman of the 1st District, City of Inglewood; the Honorable Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, former L.A. County Supervisor of the 2nd District, former member of the California State Assembly and former member of the U.S. House of Representatives; and special guest, Lee Meriwether, actress and AbilityFirst honorary chair.

The Center includes a number of vastly upgraded features such as four multipurpose rooms; a state-of-the-art kitchen for cooking instructors to teach independent living skills; several outdoor recreation areas including a basketball court, a play area, open green space, a patio, and new pavilion for meetings and special events. The Tiffany Guild Swimming Pool has long served Center participants as well as the people in the community.

AbilityFirst offers several programs for both adults and children including the After-School Enrichment program serving more than two dozen children; an Adult Day Program that serves 30 adults; and the popular Friday Night Socials. The Aquatics Program at the Center is open to both children and adults and operates year-round.

The Center serves the South Los Angeles area, including the communities of Inglewood, Hawthorne, Gardena, Los Angeles, South Bay, Westchester, Torrance and Lennox. Established in 1976, the Center is named for two of AbilityFirst's most generous contributors, Harry A. Mier and his wife Joan Mier, who funded the Center in Inglewood to help ensure a place for individuals with disabilities to learn and grow.

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 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.