



## For Immediate Release

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Sonia Ramirez – Marketing Manager  
626-639-1745 sramirez@abilityfirst.org

## **AbilityFirst Harry A. Mier Center Breaks Ground for the NEW Joan and Harry A. Mier Center**

**The Center "behind the wall" is getting bigger and better to continue serving the community.**

**INGLEWOOD, CA** (August 16, 2013) - On Friday, August 16, 2013 the AbilityFirst Harry A. Mier Center located at 8090 Crenshaw Blvd., Inglewood, CA 90305 held a Ground Breaking Ceremony to construct a one-story building to be renamed the AbilityFirst Joan and Harry A. Mier Center.

Established in 1976, the Center is named for one of AbilityFirst's most generous contributors. Harry A. Mier and his wife Joan Mier funded the center in Inglewood to help ensure a place for children and adults with disabilities to reach their personal best. The Center offers after-school and adult day programs for children and adults from Inglewood and surrounding communities.

“The Ground Breaking Ceremony featured corporate, political and community leaders who all gathered for the historical event” stated Lori Gangemi, AbilityFirst President and CEO. “It was wonderful to see more than one hundred people coming together to show support of not only preserving this Center for future generations, but to also help expand and enhance services in this community.” Some prominent guest speakers included; The Honorable James T. Butts, Mayor City of Inglewood; The Honorable George Dotson, Councilman 1<sup>st</sup> District, City of Inglewood; The Honorable Ralph Franklin, Councilman 4<sup>th</sup> District, City of Inglewood; The Honorable Yvonne Brathwaite Burke former LA County Supervisor 2<sup>nd</sup> District and, former member of the CA State Assembly and the U.S. House of Representatives; and the Honorable Diane Watson, former US Representative for the 33<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District.

To date, AbilityFirst has raised nearly 90 percent of the \$3.6 million budget for its new 6,500 square foot facility. The new building will include a number of vastly upgraded features such as four multipurpose rooms of approximately 500 square feet each for program use; state of the art kitchen for cooking instruction to teach independent living skills; multi outdoor recreation areas, including half basketball court, play area, open green space, patio, and a new pavilion for meetings and special events. The Harry A. Mier Center also has an indoor warm water swimming pool. The Tiffany Guild Pool has been a long time staple for the people in the community as well as those served by the Center and is available to everyone.

The Harry A. Mier Center has a rich and long history of being deeply rooted in the community and even opening its doors to other nonprofit and community based organizations, this tradition will continue. To learn more about the [Joan and Harry A. Mier Center](#) and the work of AbilityFirst or how you may get involved please visit [www.AbilityFirst.org](http://www.AbilityFirst.org).

###