

LA Rotary Club Teams with AbilityFirst for Camp Paivika Carnival Day

Pasadena, CA – August 13, 2016 – The Los Angeles Rotary Club (LA5 Rotary) sponsored an active morning of carnival booths and an obstacle course for more than 50 adult campers with physical and developmental disabilities from throughout Greater Los Angeles at the AbilityFirst Camp Paivika Rotary Carnival Day.

"The LA Rotary Club has supported AbilityFirst since it was founded in 1926," said AbilityFirst Director of Corporate and Foundation Giving and Rotarian, Adam Pilder. "Every year, the club volunteers at Camp Paivika and this year, they helped with working the carnival games and interacting with our fellow campers. We are incredibly grateful for the long-time involvement from the LA Rotary Club, and to Lawry's The Prime Rib who generously donated lunch for the volunteers."

Highlights from the 90-year history of AbilityFirst accomplishments due in part to Rotary support include: setting a model standard in accessibility with the design and construction of one of the very first fully accessible camps in the nation; opening one of the first vocational training programs in the country for adults with disabilities; being a forerunner in supported employment helping adults with disabilities succeed in competitive community jobs; and averting a programming crisis by sponsoring and helping to secure passage of state Senate Bill 309, which now ensures that young adults with developmental disabilities can receive after school care throughout high school.

About AbilityFirst Camp Paivika

Located in the beautiful San Bernardino National Forest, AbilityFirst <u>Camp Paivika</u> offers overnight summer programs for children and adults with disabilities. These programs provide a traditional camp experience with nurturing support and an emphasis on fun. It is one of the first fully accessible camps in the United States. Camp Paivika has helped thousands of children and adults with disabilities make friends, try new activities, and become more confident and independent. As campers enjoy their Camp Paivika experience, families and caregivers can take a break from the rigors and challenges of providing 24/7 care, knowing that their loved ones are safe — cared for and having fun. Camp Paivika is also available for rental each year from January to May. The beauty and privacy offered by this historic property makes Camp Paivika the perfect camp rental facility for meetings, retreats, weddings, and other special events.

About AbilityFirst

AbilityFirst provides a variety of programs that have a common mission: to help people with disabilities realize their full potential throughout their lives. Celebrating 90 years of service to communities throughout Greater Los Angeles in 2016, AbilityFirst focuses efforts on programs proven to have the greatest impact on an individual's success. From basic life skills enhancement through our children's and adult programs; to higher education and employment readiness; through to our independent living programs and social and recreational programming, AbilityFirst looks beyond disabilities, focuses on the capabilities of each individual and breaks through any preconceived limitations, opening up a world of possibilities. www.camppaivika.org www.strollandroll.org

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