



For Immediate Release:

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**AbilityFirst to host 2017 Stroll & Roll annual fundraiser
April 2 at Universal Backlot
Presented by Comerica Bank
*“Glee” Actress Lauren Potter announced as Celebrity Champion***

Pasadena, CA - (March 10, 2017) - AbilityFirst, a 91-year-old nonprofit organization serving children and adults with disabilities, is set to host its annual fundraiser and 5K walk, Stroll & Roll. AbilityFirst is honored to name Lauren Potter as this year's Stroll & Roll Celebrity Champion. The event will be held on Sunday, April 2, 2017 at Universal Studios Backlot in Universal City, CA.

Potter is best known for her role as the spunky cheerleader 'Becky Jackson' on FOX's hit television series "Glee." She is thrilled to be using the public voice that "Glee" has given her to speak out for others with disabilities, who may not have the same opportunities.

"Thank you to everyone at AbilityFirst for all you do to make dreams come true for so many people. I'm looking forward to working with AbilityFirst, starting by joining everyone at Stroll & Roll on April 2nd," says Potter.

Potter will join AbilityFirst Stroll & Roll longtime Honorary Chairs, actress Jaclyn Smith of "Charlie's Angels," actress and model Lee Meriwether, *Miss America 1955*, actress Jane Kaczmarek of "Malcolm in the Middle," along with special guest Heather Langenkamp, actress in "A Nightmare On Elm Street."

Stroll & Roll, AbilityFirst's signature annual fundraiser has a goal of raising \$920,000 to help provide quality programs and services to children and adults with physical and developmental disabilities.

"Stroll & Roll is our biggest fundraiser of the year," said Lori Gangemi, President and CEO of AbilityFirst. "Our target is to raise \$920,000 to support our much needed and successful programs and services at our various locations in the Greater Los Angeles area and our fully-accessible summer camp program, Camp Paivika in the San Bernardino National Forest."

WHO: Actresses Lauren Potter of the FOX series, “Glee,” Jaclyn Smith, Lee Meriwether, Jane Kaczmarek and Heather Langenkamp; Ability First CEO Lori Gangemi; NBC4’s Whit Johnson and Shanna Mendiola; families; participants; sponsors

WHAT: AbilityFirst annual 5K walk fundraiser, Stroll & Roll – supporting people with disabilities

WHEN: Sunday, April 2, 2017 7a.m. – 11 a.m.

WHERE: Universal Studios Backlot, 3900 Lankershim Blvd, Gate 3, Universal City, CA 91608

Stroll & Roll is presented by Comerica Bank and Nextera. Platinum Sponsor is Platinum Equity. Gold Sponsor is Quetico, Silver Sponsors are NRG, Jordana, Capital Group and the Skechers Foundation; NBC4 Southern California is the media sponsor of the event.

For more information and to register for the event, donate or become a sponsor, visit www.strollandroll.org

About AbilityFirst

AbilityFirst is a 501(c)3 nonprofit that provides programs and services to help children and adults with disabilities reach their full potential. With locations throughout Greater Los Angeles, AbilityFirst offers a broad range of employment, recreational and socialization programs as well as accessible residential housing complexes and a fully-accessible summer camp, Camp Paivika, for both children and adults.

www.AbilityFirst.org

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