



**Media Contact:**

Rebecca Haussling  
Senior Director of Communications  
Office: 626-639-1745  
Mobile: 310-922-7384  
Email: [rhaussling@abilityfirst.org](mailto:rhaussling@abilityfirst.org)

**AbilityFirst Announces \$12 Million in grants funding from AS&F Foundation**  
*The grant shall be used by AbilityFirst to establish and maintain an endowment for Camp Paivika*

**(PASADENA, CA)** June 20, 2017 – AbilityFirst announces today a \$12 million gift from the AS&F Foundation to create an endowment for Camp Paivika, providing an all-accessible camp in the San Bernardino mountains and offering overnight summer programs for children and adults with disabilities. Camp Paivika gives campers the opportunity to have a traditional camp experience with nurturing support and an emphasis on having fun. It is one of the first fully accessible camps in the United States and has helped tens of thousands of children and adults with disabilities make friends, try new activities and become more confident and independent.

AbilityFirst will continue to offer residential camping opportunities to children and adults with disabilities and the Camp Paivika Endowment will be used primarily for the upkeep, care, maintenance and replacement, including capital projects at Camp Paivika.

This year marks the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Camp Paivika. Programs throughout the summer allow children, teens and adults with disabilities the chance to enjoy well-regulated morning to night activities that are creatively adapted to enable fun and encourage participation. For 70 years, Camp Paivika has been guided by the principle, “can” and not, “cannot” – and no one is left out. Families and caretakers of campers are also given respite from the rigors and challenges of providing 24/7 care.

AbilityFirst CEO Lori Gangemi shares,

**For press inquiries please contact Rebecca Haussling [rhaussling@abilityfirst.org](mailto:rhaussling@abilityfirst.org) or 626-639-1745**

**###**

**About AbilityFirst**

For more than 90 years AbilityFirst has been providing programs and services throughout Greater Los Angeles for children and adults with disabilities. AbilityFirst provides a variety of programs designed to help people with disabilities achieve their personal best through their lives. This is accomplished through

targeted programming to help an individual successfully transition from childhood to adult life, providing employment preparation and training, building social connections and fostering independence while offering both our participants and their caregivers an opportunity to recharge through our recreational activities, including a fully accessible summer camp, Camp Paivika. More at [www.abilityfirst.org](http://www.abilityfirst.org)