



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Media Contact:

Rebecca Hausling
Senior Director of Communications
Tel: 626-639-1745
Email: rhausling@abilityfirst.org

Celebrity supporters, corporate teams and friends join together for the 2018 Stroll & Roll *Annual event supports AbilityFirst programs serving individuals with disabilities*

LOS ANGELES – (April 17, 2018) The sun shined brightly on Sunday, April 8, 2018 for the AbilityFirst Stroll & Roll presented by Comerica Bank, NextEra Energy and Subaru of Glendale. Celebrity supporters, corporate and individual teams, families and friends attended for a morning of FUNdraising, including an opening ceremony with emcee and NBC4, “Today in LA” weekend anchor Mekahlo Medina, and an expo area filled with games, family activities, food trucks, photo booth, and more.

AbilityFirst held the annual fundraiser at the beautiful Los Angeles State Historic Park in support of its mission of serving children and adults with disabilities. The funds raised benefit the 2,000 individuals served by AbilityFirst each year. AbilityFirst helps children and adults with disabilities achieve their personal best by focusing on the successful transition from childhood to adult life; programs include employment and employment preparation; building social connections and independence, summer camp; and offering participants and their families a chance to refresh and recharge.

Longtime supporter and AbilityFirst honorary chair and actress, Jaclyn Smith most famously known for her role in “Charlie’s Angels” said hello to the crowd and introduced fellow honorary chair and actress Lee Meriwether; first Miss America and the original *Cat Woman* along with AbilityFirst celebrity ambassador, Lauren Potter best known for her role as, “Becky” in the hit TV show, *Glee*. This is Potter’s second year as the Stroll and Roll celebrity ambassador. She got the crowd excited when she declared, “I’m baaaaaack” as everyone cheered and clapped loudly.

Each of AbilityFirst celebrity supporters shared their passion for AbilityFirst programs and services. Actress Jaclyn Smith, began her relationship with AbilityFirst in 1985 and has been supporting the organization ever since. She shared, *It’s the Stroll and Roll...there’s nowhere else I’d want to be.*”

“Since 1926 AbilityFirst has been committed to helping individuals with disabilities to live their best lives,” says Lori Gangemi AbilityFirst CEO. “The funds raised for Stroll and Roll allow us to continue this important work in the greater Los Angeles area, with the hope that one day through the mutual trust that we share with our participants and their families, each person realizes their full potential throughout their lives.”

Fundraising for Stroll & Roll will continue through May 31, 2018 with a matching grant from the AS&F Foundation, up to \$75,000. Supporters can make their donation by visiting www.strollandroll.org

CONTACT: Rebecca Hausling, Senior Director of Communications rhausling@abilityfirst.org,
626639-1745

###

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.