



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**AbilityFirst Announces New Chairman of the Board of Directors,
local Pasadena resident, Mr. Harlan Thompson**

PASADENA, CA (January 22, 2018) – AbilityFirst announces today Mr. Harlan Thompson, a retired finance executive, has been elected as Chairman of the Board. Harlan follows long-time supporter of the organization, Mr. John Kelly.

The new executive committee for 2018 consists of Harlan Thompson (Chairman), Ray Cherry (Vice Chair), Wendy Lees (Treasurer) and Mike Dokmanovich (Secretary). Also on the Board of Directors is, Steve Brockmeyer, Will Craig, Diane Danis, MD, Mark Fedde, Tom Fenchel, Richard R. Frank, Maria French, Ph.D., Stuart Hemphill, Jay R. Henneberry, John Kelly, Joanne Kim, Carol Llewellyn, Mordena Moore, Kathryn Sanders Platnick, Randall Repp, Arthur Rothberg and Patricia Vick.

Mr. Thompson has been active in the financial services industry for nearly 35 years and also currently acts as a board member to the USC Marshall School of Business Corporate Advisory Board, has received his MBA in Finance and Financial Management Services from the University of Southern California and received a BS in Industrial Engineering from Oregon State University.

Mr. Thompson shares,

“I am honored to assume the role of Chairman of AbilityFirst Board of Directors. Supporting children and adults with disabilities is an extraordinary opportunity for us. The employment programs, College to Career and enabling a wonderful camp experience brings joy and empowerment to the participants and their families. AbilityFirst has been a leader in greater Los Angeles helping children and adults with developmental disabilities achieve their personal best for 92 consecutive years. I know we will continue to build on that deep partnership with the community.”

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. As we celebrate more than 92 years of service, we are focusing our efforts on programs that are proven to have the greatest impact on a person's success: basic life skills enhancement through our children's and adult programs; higher education and employment readiness; and, independent living 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. Preparation, socialization, communication, education – all leading to helping people achieve their personal best.

To learn more visit www.abilityfirst.org and follow us on social media facebook.com/abilityfirst., Instagram.com/abilityfirstla, twitter.com/abilityfirst or call Rebecca Haussling at 626-639-1745.

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