



Everyday Opportunities.
Infinite Possibilities.

Annual Report | **2017**





Everyday Opportunities. Infinite Possibilities.

AbilityFirst believes every individual has the right to achieve their personal best, **every day** and individuals with disabilities should be empowered, supported and celebrated!

For more than 92 years, children and adults with disabilities in our programs have embraced every day as a new opportunity to learn and grow. Their dedication and resilience have helped drive our mission to continue **looking beyond disabilities, focusing on capabilities and expanding possibilities.**

In 2017 AbilityFirst received a \$12 million gift from the AS&F Foundation to create an endowment for Camp Paivika. The endowment holds its principal in perpetuity and pays out a small portion of the earnings each year to support the camp's capital projects and operations. We are eternally grateful for this generous donation.

While the endowment provides a foundation for the future, it will not cover all of Camp Paivika's ongoing operational needs. The hope and expectation is that the endowment will help us attract more support from donors who realize the importance of sustainability and the **infinite possibilities, for our campers**, like building confidence and making new friends!

In Pasadena we launched the *AbilityFirst ExploreAbility* program for adults who want to acquire the skills and independence to access and use their community in work and in daily life. The experience of Dion from the *AbilityFirst Pasadena Work Center* is highlighted in this year's report (page 7). Through person-centered thinking and planning, Dion has been empowered to set and pursue his personal goals—with an emphasis on employment readiness and an increased connection with his community.

AbilityFirst strives for a welcoming environment where everyone feels they belong and are valued. This includes our entire community of participants, their families, staff, volunteers, donors, event sponsors, corporate partners.... and you!

Thank you for sharing in our **everyday opportunities** to help individuals with disabilities realize their full potential throughout their lives.



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Mission

AbilityFirst provides programs and services to help children and adults with physical and developmental disabilities **realize their full potential throughout their lives.**

Vision

At AbilityFirst, our vision is of a society that **values each individual** and provides the opportunity for all people to lead full and productive lives.

Values

Trust
Belonging
Personal Best



ABILITYFIRST STAFF PROFILE

Araceli Rubalcaba-Conjeo

Educational Navigator
College to Career Program

*“With the proper guidance and the leadership to **push you to explore all your abilities:** the individuals we support are best served when we as staff flourish in our own skills.”*



When Araceli Rubalcaba-Conjeo began a 4-month Recreation Therapy internship at AbilityFirst in 2013, she could not have guessed the exciting path it would lead her down. With previous experience in program development and event planning and stellar performance at her internship, Araceli was immediately hired as a Program Supervisor and has been leading and building a variety of AbilityFirst programs ever since. Speaking now about what she appreciates about AbilityFirst, she says, “AbilityFirst not only provides a safety net to our participants to grow in all areas of their life – staff get that opportunity too.”

Currently, Araceli is working as an Educational Navigator in the College to Career program, a program that has grown exponentially since its launch in Fall of 2016. In the College to Career program, AbilityFirst provides year-round, Monday-through-Friday support to participants who demonstrate the desire and potential to succeed in a post-secondary educational environment in order to accomplish educational and career goals. With the support of their Educational Coaches, she plays an important role in determining how AbilityFirst can best serve everyone on a person-centered basis.

Araceli sees this as an opportunity to explore skills in networking and community-building that she hasn’t gotten to explore in the past. For her, it is a way to

bring her past work and current work full circle to represent the overall AbilityFirst mission. Beyond meeting with students, she has brought her UCLA Arts & Healing Training to the program, helping implement lesson plans and workshops offered during campus closure days.

To her, AbilityFirst is a place where no achievement is too small to celebrate, and the milestones and small daily accomplishments staff get to witness in the individuals they serve give meaning to everyone’s role. As she explains, “There is a culture of experimenting that is crucial to individual development. With the proper guidance and the leadership to push you to explore all your abilities, the individuals we support are best served when we as staff flourish in our own skills.”

When asked to give advice to someone just coming into AbilityFirst, Araceli shares this advice: “Be yourself, trust your skills, explore your challenges, ask for help, and make sure to take care of yourself. We work in a service sector which is very focused on giving of yourself and outputting energy to provide quality services – replenishing that daily is crucial to healthy work-life balance. And overall, have fun with your students and participants; everyone wants to belong and modeling our ease invites them to be themselves.”



Change a Life, Make Your Gift Today!

For more than 92 years, AbilityFirst has helped children and adults with disabilities realize their full potential. To do this we rely on **the generous support of individual donors, volunteers and community leaders** to support our mission.

Ongoing fundraising has made it possible for AbilityFirst to touch the lives of more than 2,000 individuals and their families each year. This generosity has been the foundation by which AbilityFirst has made a positive impact on so many people with disabilities in the greater Los Angeles area.

DONATE ONLINE

YOU can help make a difference by making your tax deductible donation today to AbilityFirst.
www.abilityfirst.org/donate

DONATE A GIFT OF STOCK

We accept gifts of stock and appreciated securities.

MATCHING GIFT

Many employers sponsor generous matching gift programs that match your charitable contribution!

PLANNED GIVING

All donors who make a planned gift to AbilityFirst will be immediately recognized by our Legacy Society. Contact Chief Development Officer Josh Chan for more information at **donate@abilityfirst.org** or **626-243-4844**

GIFTS IN TRIBUTE OR MEMORIAL

Acknowledge a special occasion or honor a loved one with a memorial gift to AbilityFirst, and we will send a note to the person being honored.

DONATE A VEHICLE

AbilityFirst partners with CARS to help you turn a vehicle you no longer need into a gift to support our mission. Learn more by visiting:
<http://www.careasy.org/nonprofit/abilityfirst>

MAKE A GIFT BY MAIL

Please make checks payable to AbilityFirst and mail to:
AbilityFirst, 1300 East Green St., Pasadena, CA 91106

For more information on how you can support the programs and services of AbilityFirst, please contact: Development Department 626-243-4845 or donate@abilityfirst.org

PARTICIPANT STORY

Exploring the AbilityFirst ExploreAbility Program in Pasadena with Dion!

*“Dion is having the time of his life! This program is **defining community life as well as – exposing him to all the aspects of learning new skills, while out in the community.**”*

– Debbie, Dion's Mom



The AbilityFirst ExploreAbility Program launched in Pasadena in 2017 to help adults become involved in their communities in their daily lives, work, and recreational and leisure activities. **The program's small-group activities promote interaction, learning, and self-discovery.**

After many years at the AbilityFirst Pasadena Work Center, Dion recently joined the ExploreAbility program. Since then, he's been busy – cooking, navigating Metro, doing some shopping for Spring, and hitting balls at the putting green. This is what his mother, Debbie, thinks about the program.



*Dion is having the time of his life! Every day all he talks about is Joshua (his peer), Paula and Edward (the program staff). This program is defining community life as well as exposing him to all aspects of learning new skills while out in the community. I can't thank you enough for referring him. He is so different. He looks forward to going each day and gets up at the crack of dawn to get ready! The fear parents have allowing their adults to go out into the community will pass as they **witness the reward of seeing them come home happy, confident and looking forward to a new adventure the next day!***

He is also enjoying physical activity in all forms; yoga, dance, basketball, cooking.

I wish I was in Dion's shoes!

-- Debbie



Camp Paivika Celebrates 70 years!

AbilityFirst marked this milestone by being awarded **\$12 million in grants funding from the AS&F Foundation** to be used to establish a Camp Paivika endowment.

In June 2017 AbilityFirst announced a \$12 million gift from the AS&F Foundation to create an endowment for Camp Paivika, our fully accessible camp in San Bernardino Mountains that offers overnight summer programs for children and adults with disabilities. Thanks to the incredible generosity of AS&F Foundation, AbilityFirst will continue to offer residential camping opportunities for thousands of individuals with disabilities, and help them to make friends, try new activities and become more confident and independent.

The grant check was presented at Camp Paivika's 70th anniversary event, held at the camp grounds. Campers, friends, families, Camp Paivika alumni and supporters enjoyed games, activities, arts and crafts, volleyball, a delicious lunch and guided tours and nature walks around Camp Paivika.

 facebook.com/AFCampPaivika

 instagram.com/camp_paivika

To learn more about Camp Paivika, visit www.camppaivika.org





AbilityFirst Legacy Society Members

The Legacy Society recognizes those visionary and caring individuals who have included AbilityFirst in their estate plans. Their **commitment and dedication are shining examples of generosity that will help AbilityFirst continue its efforts** to help children and adults with developmental disabilities realize their full potential! By becoming a member of the AbilityFirst Legacy Society, you can celebrate today the transformations you will help to make possible in the future.

Anonymous

Mary Alice and Bob Braly

Dean Carr

Josh Chan

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Michael Morris

Diane and John Mullin

Jacqueline and Kenneth Parker

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Paul Propp

The Reid Robnett Family Trust

Michael Riley

Donna Rogahn

Charles Rohe

Morris Saul

Norman Seastedt

Eleanor and James Shackelford

Carol and Gregg Teskey

Frances Tomich

Jerry Wulk

Lois Zelsdorf

For more information on Planned Giving or how to become a member of the Legacy Society, please contact our Chief Development Officer Josh Chan at josh.chan@abilityfirst.org

Donors Making a Difference.

Our donors support and generosity helps to sustain and ensure the future of AbilityFirst.

Donations from individuals and foundations listed here help AbilityFirst participants to look beyond disabilities, focus on capabilities and expand possibilities!

GUARDIAN 250,000 AND ABOVE

*Estate of Selma E. Andrews
AS&F Foundation*

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This annual report covers the fiscal year January 2017-December 2017. Gifts received after December 31, 2017 will be acknowledged in the next annual report. We have made every effort to ensure that the information included is accurate. If an error has been made please accept our apology and contact Chief Development Officer Josh Chan at 626.696.1010.

Locations

AbilityFirst's Southern California locations offer a **broad range of recreational and socialization programs** for children and adults with disabilities and employment programs for adults with disabilities.

HEADQUARTERS

1300 East Green St.
Pasadena, CA 91106
Tel: 626.396.1010
Fax: 626.396.1021
info@abilityfirst.org
On-site Services:
College to Career Program

LAWRENCE L. FRANK CENTER

201 S. Kinneloa Ave.
Pasadena, CA 91107
Tel: 626.449.5661
Fax: 626.449.1519
afpasadena@abilityfirst.org
On-site Services: After School Program, Aquatics (seasonal)
Facility License # 191223376

CROWN HOUSE

3055 E. Del Mar Blvd.
Pasadena, CA 91107
Tel: 626.440.9090
Fax: 626.440.0535
housing@abilityfirst.org
On-site Services: Accessible Housing
Facility License # 19220419

EMPLOYMENT SERVICES PASADENA

2555 E. Colorado Blvd., Ste. 202
Pasadena, CA 91107
Tel: 626.768.7192
employmentservices@abilityfirst.org
On-site Services: Employment Services

PASADENA BUSINESS & EMPLOYMENT SERVICES CENTER

2570 East Foothill Blvd.
Pasadena, CA 91107
Tel: 626.449.5662
Fax: 626.449.0418
businessservices@abilityfirst.org
On-site Services: Employment Services Business Services: Assembly & Packaging, Order Fulfillment, Shredding, Mailing, Light Industrial Staffing

SIERRA ROSE

3053 ½ E. Del Mar Blvd
Pasadena, CA 91107
Tel: 626.578.0120
housing@abilityfirst.org
On-site Services: Accessible Housing
Facility License # 197603944

GLENDALE CENTER

1700 E Mountain St., Rm. 6
Glendale, CA 91207
Tel: 818.548.4677
Fax: 818.548.9587
malcantar@abilityfirst.org
On-site Services: After School Program
Facility License # 198018595

CLAREMONT CENTER

480 S. Indian Hill
Claremont, CA 91711
Tel: 909.621.4727
Fax: 909.624.8388
afclaremont@abilityfirst.org
On-site Services: After School Program, Aquatics program
Facility License # 191501798

EAST LOS ANGELES CENTER

154 N. Gage Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90063
Tel: 323.268.8178
Fax: 323.268.2359
afeastla@abilityfirst.org
On-site Services: After School Program
Facility License # 191871195

L.L. FRANK BUSINESS & EMPLOYMENT SERVICES CENTER

3812 S. Grand Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90037
Tel: 213.748.7309
Fax: 213.748.7248
businessservices@abilityfirst.org
On-site Services: Employment Services Business Services: Assembly & Packaging, Order Fulfillment, Shredding, Mailing, Light Industrial Staffing

JOAN & HARRY A. MIER CENTER

8090 Crenshaw Blvd.
Inglewood, CA 90305
Tel: 323.753.3101
Fax: 323.753.5472
afinglewood@abilityfirst.org
On-site Services: Adult Day Program, After School Program, Community Integration Program, Aquatics
Facility License # 191601509, 197400546

LONG BEACH CENTER

3770 E. Willow Street
Long Beach, CA 90815
Tel: 562.426.6161
Fax: 562.426.6148
aflongbeach@abilityfirst.org
On-site Services: Adult Day Program, After School Program, Aquatics
Facility License # 191600097, 191600444

EMPLOYMENT SERVICES LONG BEACH

3447 Atlantic Ave., 3rd Floor
Long Beach, CA 90807
Tel: 562.570.3667
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employmentservices@abilityfirst.org
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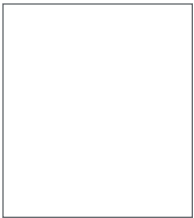
CAMP PAIVIKA

Mailing Address:
PO Box 3367
Crestline, CA 92325
Camp Address:
600 Playground Dr.
Crestline, CA 92322
Tel: 909.338.1102
Fax: 909.338.2502
camppaivika@abilityfirst.org
On-site Services: Overnight Summer Camp, Overnight Winter/Spring Camp Experiences, Mom's Retreat, Facility Rentals

Financials

Audited Financial Statements
(\$ in thousands)

REVENUE AND SUPPORT		Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 2017	
		Amount	%
Program Revenue			
Community Centers		\$3,999	12%
Business Services		\$2,360	7%
Housing Services		\$701	2%
Camping Services		\$404	1%
Supported Employment		\$2,316	7%
Fund Development			
General		\$2,146	7%
Restricted Donations		\$12,100	37%
Legacies and Bequests		\$1,031	3%
Other Revenue			
Facility Revenue		\$426	1%
Investment Income		\$6,458	20%
Change in Value - Trusts		\$385	1%
Gain on Sale of Asset		(\$0)	0%
TOTAL REVENUE/SUPPORT		\$32,326	100%
OPERATING EXPENSE			
Program Services		\$12,485	78%
Support Services			
Management & General		\$2,844	18%
Fund Development		\$667	4%
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$15,969	100%
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS		\$16,357	



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