



SERVING CHILDREN AND ADULTS WITH DISABILITIES

MEDIA CONTACT: Rebecca Haussling
EMAIL: RHaussling@abilityfirst.org
TEL: 626-639-1745

AbilityFirst and FVO Solutions, Inc. Announce Merger

Pasadena, CA – AbilityFirst and FVO Solutions, two longstanding leading organizations, announced today the merger of the two nonprofits under the AbilityFirst umbrella. Together, AbilityFirst and FVO Solutions will offer even more innovative employment opportunities and other services for people with developmental disabilities.

With 94 years of experience and more than 50 years in Pasadena, AbilityFirst (formerly known as the Crippled Children’s Society) provides a variety of programs designed to help people with disabilities achieve their potential throughout their lives. With the acquisition of FVO Solutions (formerly known as Foothill Vocational Opportunities), it gains one of the most innovative and enterprising supportive employment services, and a social enterprise manufacturing program.

“We celebrate a major milestone today as we formally merge with FVO Solutions” said AbilityFirst CEO Lori Gangemi. “There is an incredible opportunity to expand each of our exceptional services while ensuring that people with disabilities and their families have a wider access to a variety of programs that can help to transform their lives.”

By joining forces, AbilityFirst and FVO Solutions will deliver critical and transformational support services to an expanded population of more than 2,000 people with developmentally disabilities in the greater Los Angeles community and be better positioned to serve as an advocate for people with disabilities in the fight for diversity, equity, and inclusion.

“Nearly 80% of individuals with developmental disabilities are unemployed,” adds Gangemi, “ensuring employment opportunities and training is a critical piece to inclusion in our communities and enrichment of their lives.”

The combined organization will operate under the AbilityFirst brand and will be led by CEO Lori Gangemi. The headquarters for the combined organization will be on Green Street in Pasadena.

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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 94 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 abilityfirst.org.