



NEWS RELEASE

Long Beach Guild of AbilityFirst Hosts “Rainbows for AbilityFirst” and Luncheon on Oct 16.



(LONG BEACH, Calif) *October 25, 2021* – The AbilityFirst Long Beach Center Guild, “Rainbows for AbilityFirst” Luncheon was held at the Grand Event Center in Long Beach on Saturday, October 16, 2021. The annual event featured a shopping boutique with jewelry, accessories, handbags and clothing and a lively silent and live auction, led by local auctioneer and Past President and CEO of the Long Beach Chamber of Commerce, Randy Gordon. Mr. Gordon kept

the room raising paddles and helped raise more than \$72,000 in funds for AbilityFirst Long Beach Center programs for people with disabilities.

Auction packages include “Sunset on the Bay” enjoy cocktails and appetizers at sunset at the lovely beach home of local resident and Long Beach Guild Chair, Mary Alice and Bob Braly, a gift certificate to Lawry’s Restaurant donated by board member and CEO of Lawry’s, Richard Frank, a stunning necklace and earrings donated by McCarty’s Jewelry in Belmont Shore, a PURRfect companion, a kitty/cat donated by Founder and President, Judy Taylor of Pretty Good Cat and a Furry companion, a rescue dog donated by Founder and President, Piper Woods of Paw in Hand Rescue.

Guests were taught sign language by our participants, Nick Laguna and Sarah Brown that allowed our audience to join in with our live performance of “God Bless America” by the ECHOS group and a delicious three-course meal. This year’s event introduced the ABC7 reporter, Karl Schmid as the event emcee and the first in-person event since the beginning of the pandemic raised more than \$72,000 for programs and services supporting people with disabilities in Long Beach.

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AbilityFirst Long Beach Guild

Since 1978, the AbilityFirst Long Beach Center Guild has raised funds to directly support and enrich the services offered at the Long Beach Center. Net proceeds from this year’s event will help to fund community outings, special events, playground equipment and furnishings for more than 100 participants at the Long Beach center.

About AbilityFirst

AbilityFirst is a nonprofit that provides programs and services to help children and adults with disabilities reach their full potential. With locations throughout Greater Los Angeles, AbilityFirst offers a broad range of employment, recreational and socialization programs as well as accessible residential housing complexes and a fully-accessible summer camp, Camp Paivika, for both children and adults. www.AbilityFirst.org

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