

## **AbilityFirst Celebrates Grand Re-Opening of Long Beach Center**

**WHO:** [AbilityFirst](#), a 501(c)3 nonprofit that provides programs and services to help children and adults with disabilities reach their full potential, has completed planned renovations of its building in Long Beach as part of the \$6 million capital campaign, "Building Independence, Celebrating Community." Another building in Pasadena, funded by the capital campaign, has already been completed.

**WHAT:** Following its historic merger with FVO Solutions, Inc., AbilityFirst marks another milestone with the grand re-opening of its **Long Beach Center** in Long Beach, Calif. The Long Beach Center incorporates a person-centered approach for AbilityFirst's expanding programs: its Adult Day program, Social Recreational, Afterschool and Summer programs for 6 to 22 year olds, including Youth Employment programs for people with developmental disabilities, and an aquatics program serving the community. Besides expanding its program, AbilityFirst is bringing the College to Career and Supported Employment programs to the Long Beach Center for teen and young adult individuals, who are aging out of the afterschool program, and are interested in continuing their education or finding meaningful work.

Renovations to the Long Beach Center as a result of the capital campaign include:

- Improved safety for participants and the community with a new one-way drive aisle at the rear of the building
- Modernizing and enhancing the Children and Adult Program areas and administration office with more space and use of technology
- New mechanical equipment to adequately ventilate the indoor swimming pool, an integral component and vital resource to the community

**WHEN:** Wednesday, Sept. 28 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon

10 a.m. – Tours of the newly renovated building and refreshments, light bites served

11:30 a.m. – A formal presentation featuring welcome remarks, resolutions from legislators, and a testimonial from a participant and their family.

**WHERE:** AbilityFirst's Long Beach Center, 3770 E. Willow Street, Long Beach, CA 90815

**WHY:** The AbilityFirst Long Beach Center and Lawrence L. Frank Center in Pasadena were opened more than 50 years and a lot has changed since then. AbilityFirst's Supported Employment program will now be housed at the center for easier transition of youth from high school to employment, using the teaching kitchen to reinforce workforce and

independent living skills. In addition, the organization will be expanding its College to Career program. With this Capital Campaign, AbilityFirst is ready to meet the need and support people with disabilities.

**HOW:** Notable gifts from funders include: The Ahmanson Foundation; Alpert & Alpert Foundation; Raymond and Barbara Alpert Foundation; Los Angeles County Supervisor Kathryn Barger; Mary Alice & Bob Braly; Steve & Mary Brockmeyer; Will Craig; Gail and Jim Ellis; Mr. & Mrs. Thomas D. Fenchel; Richard R. Frank; Fred & Peggy Hartley Family Foundation; Henry L. Guenther Foundation; Joanne Kim; Terri & Jerry Kohl; Ambassador W. Robert Kohorst (Ret.) & Shelley A. Allen; L and D Longo Foundation; Lawry's Restaurants, Inc.; The Long Beach Guild and its members: Gloria Deukmejian, Caroline Hansen, Deloris Mayuga, Linda Silver, Julie and Henry Taboada and Joan Alderson; The Ralph M. Parsons Foundation; Posey Family Foundation, Jack & Cherie Raidy; and The Rose Hills Foundation.

If you would like to attend for media coverage, please reach out to Rebecca Haussling [rhaussling@abilityfirst.org](mailto:rhaussling@abilityfirst.org) or Marisol Barrios Perez, APR [marisol@missiondrivenpr.com](mailto:marisol@missiondrivenpr.com)

All guests are required to wear masks while indoors.

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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 95 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](http://abilityfirst.org)

### **Media Contact**

Rebecca Haussling, AbilityFirst  
[rhaussling@abilityfirst.org](mailto:rhaussling@abilityfirst.org) | 626-639-1742

Marisol Barrios Perez, APR, Mission Driven PR  
[marisol@missiondrivenpr.com](mailto:marisol@missiondrivenpr.com) | 310-713-8567