



Presented by  Comerica Bank.

For Immediate Release

AbilityFirst Stroll & Roll Presented by Comerica Bank Raises \$600,000 for programs empowering children and adults with developmental disabilities

The event was held at the Santa Anita Park to celebrate inclusion

November 15, 2022 (Pasadena, CA) – Hundreds of attendees came together for the 2022 Stroll & Roll at Santa Anita Park in Arcadia, Calif. on Saturday November 12th. The fundraiser featured a behind-the-scenes walk around the track and infield, live music and entertainment as well as, two dozen interactive exhibitors showcasing their products and services, from innovative solutions for the disability community to carnival games, plus food trucks and a beer garden hosted by *Golden Road Brewing*.

The annual event is the only time throughout the year where all AbilityFirst program participants from the ten community centers and programs across greater Los Angeles join together for a fun-filled day with their families, donors and corporate teams and event sponsors.

The morning kicked off with a welcome ceremony was hosted by NBC4 “Today in LA” weekend morning news anchor, Mekahlo Medina. He thanked AbilityFirst participants, teams and sponsors. Long-time supporter and Celebrity Ambassador Jaclyn Smith (*Charlie’s Angels*) shared some heartfelt, inspirational words including, “...*Stroll & Roll is one of my favorite days of the year...*” Mike Dokmanovich, Comerica Bank LA County Regional President on behalf of presenting sponsor, also shared, “*I’ve been supporting this great event since my twins were in strollers... and now they are 18 years old!*”

“It was thrilling to be back in person after a two-year hiatus, and we loved seeing so many familiar -and also many new – faces” said AbilityFirst CEO Lori Gangemi, “...all while enjoying this great venue with gorgeous mountain views and raising money for programs to empower people with disabilities!”

The event continued with live performances from Straight Up Abilities, a professional performance art training for people with all abilities and Movin’ On Up Productions, a hip hop and street style dance production company, plus a special dance performance of “Billie Jean” by Ian Smith a participant with AbilityFirst College to Career. The infield performance stage was hosted by AbilityFirst Ambassador, Hunter March (E! Nightly Pop, Sugar Rush) and DJ Severe (Dodgers official DJ) kept the audience grooving, between the live performances.

Stroll & Roll Sponsors included: Media Sponsorship NBC4/Telemundo 52, Presenting sponsor Comerica Bank, Platinum sponsor, Platinum Equity, Gold sponsor Southern California Gas, Silver sponsors Bank of America, Fletcher Jones, Gallop Corp., Longo Toyota – Longo Lexus, RSM, SC Fuels, Thunder Group, Tzu Liu Foundation, Umpqua Bank, J. Yang and Family

Foundation and among others. AbilityFirst is continuing to fundraise towards the \$600,000 goal to learn more and make a donation visit strollandroll.org

About AbilityFirst:

AbilityFirst is a 501(c)3 nonprofit that provides programs and services to empower children and adults with disabilities to reach their full potential. With locations throughout Greater Los Angeles, AbilityFirst offers a broad range of recreational and socialization programs as well as college coaching, supported employment, volunteering and a fully accessible summer camp, Camp Paivika, for both children and adults. www.AbilityFirst.org

MEDIA CONTACT:

Rebecca Haussling

Senior Director of Marketing & Communications

RHaussling@abilityfirst.org

Mobile: 310-922-7384