

Ability360 Raises Over \$135,000 at Annual Fundraising Breakfast

Written by Mallory Gleich

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On November 7, Ability360 hosted its highly anticipated fundraising breakfast, raising over \$135,000 to support sports and fitness programs for athletes with disabilities from all walks of life, including youth and professionals. The event celebrated the organization's commitment to empowering individuals with disabilities and providing them with the opportunity to engage in physical activity and lead independent, healthy lives.

"I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the leaders, advocates, and sponsors who joined us in uplifting the Ability360 community at this year's breakfast," Christopher Rodriguez, the president and CEO of Ability360, said. "This event is truly something special, celebrating and empowering our community while supporting the programs that promote health, wellness, and increase independence."

Over 400 attendees gathered at the Ability360 Sports & Fitness Center, where they were treated to a breakfast provided by Vincent on Camelback and Ri's Coffee. The event took place on the basketball courts, offering a unique opportunity to hear personal stories from members who have benefited from the organization's services. Attendees also learned about Ability360's mission and goals.



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A key feature of the event was a panel talk between Steven Hunter, former Phoenix Suns player, and Brad Cesmat, founder and CEO of Sports360AZ. The discussion focused on the importance of sports programs for individuals with disabilities and the critical need for inclusive spaces where youth can play and feel a sense of belonging. The conversation highlighted the profound impact sports can have on promoting physical fitness, mental health, and overall well-being for individuals with disabilities.

The event was made possible through the support of several sponsors, including presenting sponsor Arizona Complete Health. Ability360 also raised funds to support a variety of programs offered at the Ability360 Sports & Fitness Center, such as youth sports teams, military programs, and the 360Outdoors initiative. Gold sponsor United Healthcare and bronze sponsors Arizona Diamondbacks, Bank of America, PNC Bank, U.S. Bank, Waymo, and Wells Fargo also played a pivotal role in ensuring the success of the event.

The Ability360 Sports & Fitness Center is a state-of-the-art 45,000-square-foot facility located in Phoenix. The center provides a wide range of accessible amenities to help individuals with disabilities achieve their fitness and wellness goals. Features include a fitness center with wheelchair-accessible weight machines, an aquatic area with lifts and elevators, and accessible locker rooms, among other facilities. The center is dedicated to promoting health, wellness, and independence for all individuals. To learn more, visit ability360.org.