

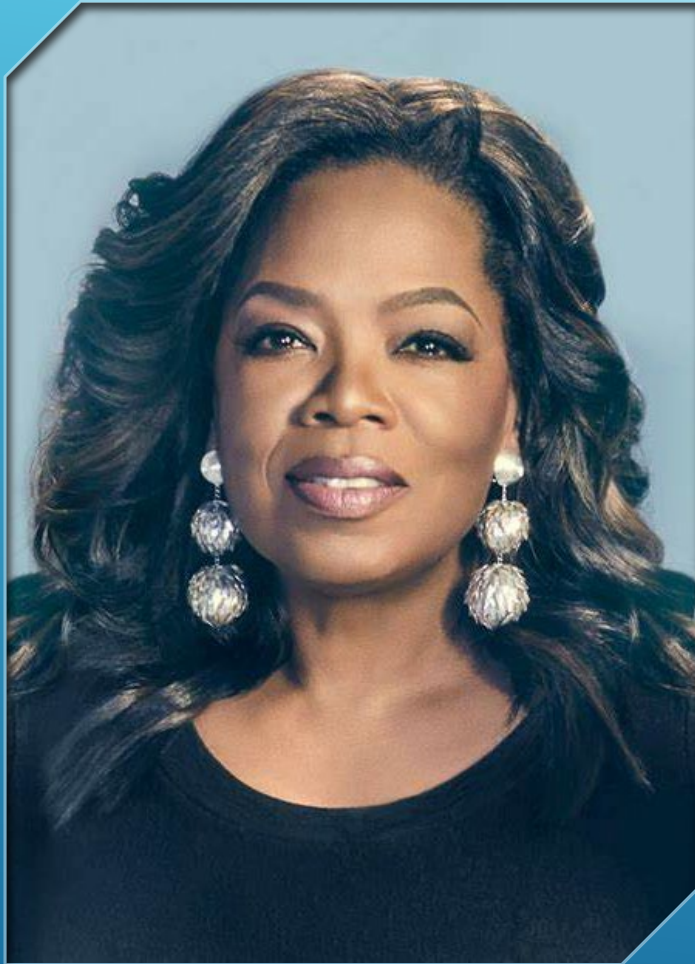
OCTOBER IS DISABILITY AWARENESS MONTH

In observance of October DisAbility Awareness Month,
Disabled Students Program & Services (DSPS)
at Santa Ana College Presents:
Notable Famous People with Disabilities

(714) 564-6295

Compliments of Elizabeth Harvey

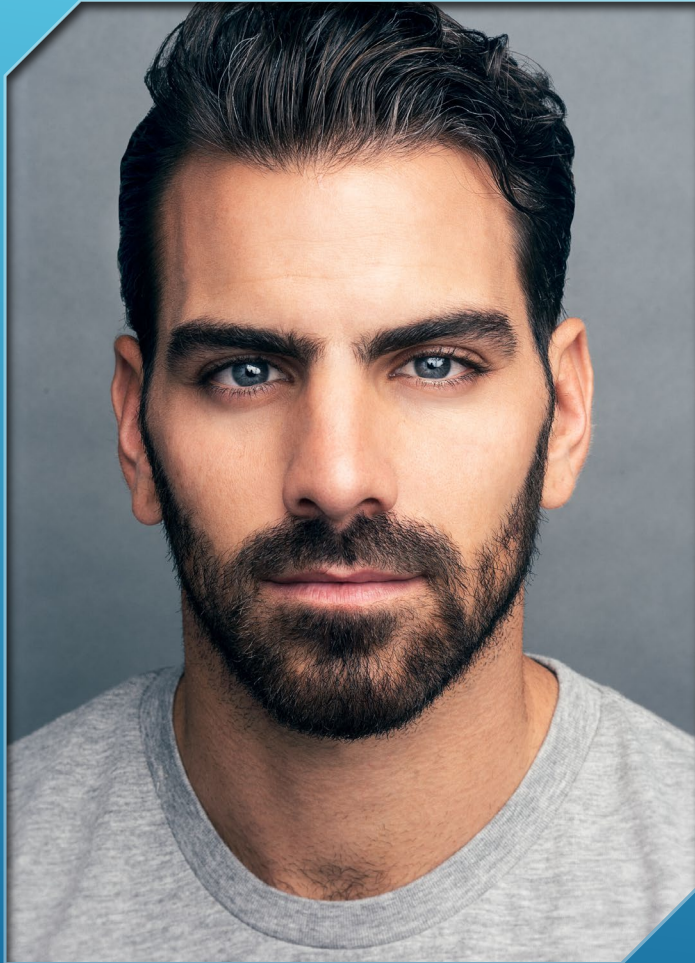




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OPRAH WINFREY

Author and TV show host, Oprah Winfrey, is another list of famous people with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). She did a show on sexual abuse in 1986 and revealed that a relative raped her when she was only nine and she was later abused by many people for several years. She had a baby who died early. She now advocates for sexual abuse survivors.



Photo/info credit: nyledimarko.com

NYLE DIMARCO

Nyle DiMarco is an actor, model, and spokesman. He is a native New Yorker and was born into a large multigenerational deaf family.

He is an alumni of Gallaudet University, the only liberal arts University in the world for the deaf, with a bachelor's of art degree in mathematics. Nyle is the first deaf person to win America's Next Top Model Cycle 22 and Dancing with the Stars Season 22.

Nyle is deaf and uses American Sign Language (ASL). ASL requires the use of facial expressions and body movements - his deafness amplifies his natural talent. His deafness is an asset and not a limitation. He is amicable and able to communicate easily.



SALMA HAYEK JIMENEZ

Salma Hayek Jimenez was born in 1966 to opera singer Diana Jimenez Medina and businessman, Sami Hayek Dominguez in Coatzacoalcos, Veracruz, Mexico. Raised in a wealthy, devout Roman Catholic family, she was sent to private school in New Orleans at the age of 12. It was while she was there that Salma was diagnosed with dyslexia and eventually expelled for setting the nuns' clocks back three hours. Perhaps the sisters didn't know dyslexics have trouble with analog clocks!

Remarkably, learning a second language was not that difficult for her. "I'm really a fast learner. I always was, which is maybe why in high school they didn't realize I had dyslexia. I skipped years without studying too much," she says. "[The dyslexia] doesn't bother me now. Some people read really fast, but you'll ask them questions about the script and they'll forget. I take a long time to read a script, but I read it only once."

Photo/info credit: dyslexia-reading-well.com
and google.com



Photo/info credit: Google.com

STEPHEN HAWKING

Stephen Hawking was born on January 8th, 1942. Stephen was diagnosed at the age of 21 with a terminal illness called Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS). He was only predicted to live two years. His wife at the time, Jane Wilde, helped him cope with his disability. This was a hard disease because it makes it difficult for Stephen to move, talk, and write. Stephen was able to overcome a lot of the effects of his disability rather quickly because he is a genius. He was able to build a machine that reads his eye movements. This was so inspiring to others because he showed that even though he can't talk, he is still doing genius work. Stephen even went on to appear on Star Trek and the Conan O'Brian talk show. But what Stephen Hawking is most well-known for is for being a theoretical physicist. He never let his illness define him.



HITOMI ONISHI

For amputee sprinter Hitomi Onishi, winning races and setting records provides a thrill, but greater satisfaction comes from simply running alongside a full complement of competitors with disabilities. In 2000, Onishi was hospitalized for heart muscle inflammation and her right leg necrotized after a failed catheter-infusion treatment. She accepted her doctor's decision to amputate the leg. "People fear amputation because they don't know it," she added. "They should feel at ease if they see me. I want to demonstrate that there are lots of things people can do even with artificial legs."

Photo/info credit: japantimes.com



Photo/info credit: Understood.org

DANIEL RADCLIFFE

As the star of the Harry Potter movies, actor Daniel Radcliffe can be seen zipping around on a broomstick and saving the day during Quidditch matches. In real life, he has dyspraxia, which can make it difficult for him to tie his shoes. Handwriting also continues to be a challenge. He was 9-years-old when his mother encouraged him to audition for a play. "I was having a hard time in school," he said. His mom thought acting would boost his confidence. She was right!

Dyspraxia isn't a sign of muscle weakness or low intelligence. It's a brain-based condition that makes it hard to plan and coordinate physical movement. Children with dyspraxia tend to struggle with balance and posture. They may appear clumsy or "out of sync" with their environment.



Photo/info credit: google.com and imbd.com

PRINCE

Prince was diagnosed with epilepsy as a child and had seizures through his early childhood. However, it wasn't until 2009, in an interview with PBS's Tavis Smiley that Prince openly talked about this. He is one of very few celebrities to go public about their experience as someone living with epilepsy. He also credited epilepsy with motivating him to become a performer.



ADAM LEVINE

As lead singer of Maroon 5 and a vocal coach on the popular TV show *The Voice*, this ADHDer is thriving. Adam was diagnosed early and was able to manage his Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) as a child. In adulthood; however, his symptoms became incapacitating at times. When recording music became difficult, Adam knew it was time to get help. Today, the rocker is very vocal about ADHD and reminds fans that they are not alone in the ADHD struggle.

Photo/info credit: [google.com](https://www.google.com) and [additudemag.com](https://www.additudemag.com)



WILL SMITH

As a child, Will Smith struggled with reading and writing in school due to dyslexia. Those feelings of inadequacy led him to make a promise to himself that he would never again fall behind in life. In fact, in various interviews he has attributed his film-star success to his early failure at learning to read. To this day, Smith continues to push himself to work harder and reach higher. With an estimated net worth of \$215 million, he continues to pursue projects that interest him. As a dyslexic, he is always looking for patterns in different projects.

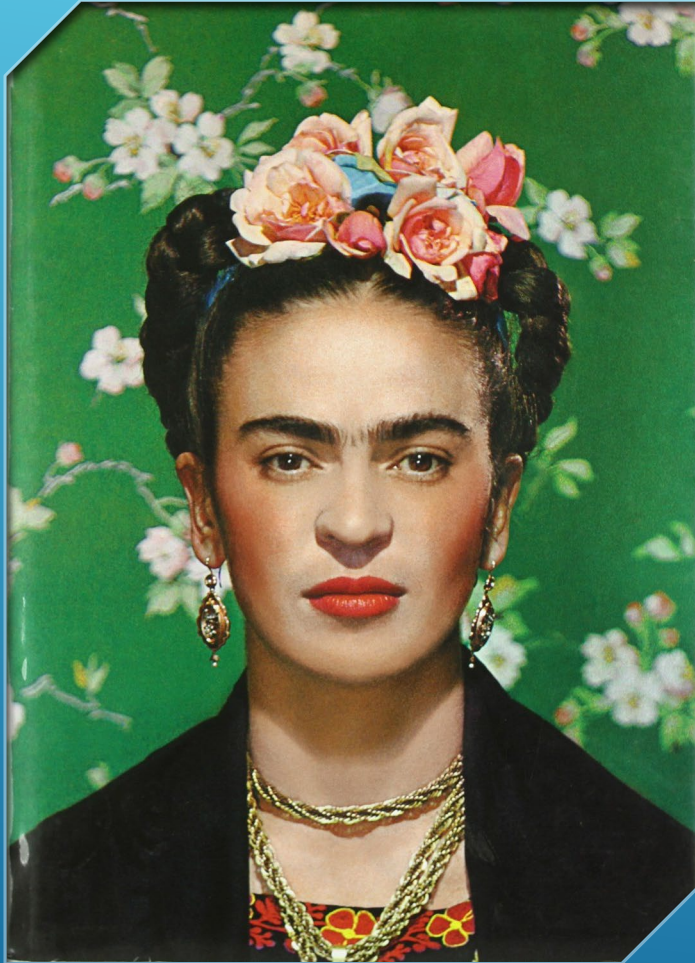
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TIM TEBOW

Former NFL quarterback Tim Tebow has dyslexia. His father and brother also have it. Learning issues can run in families. He was diagnosed in elementary school and found ways to work around his reading difficulties. “It has to do with finding out how to learn,” he said. “I’m not somebody that opens a playbook and just turns and reads and reads. So I just made flashcards, I take each one, and then boom, when I’m traveling, I just flip through it. That really helped me. Writing it down, flipping through and quizzing myself was a great way for me to do it.”

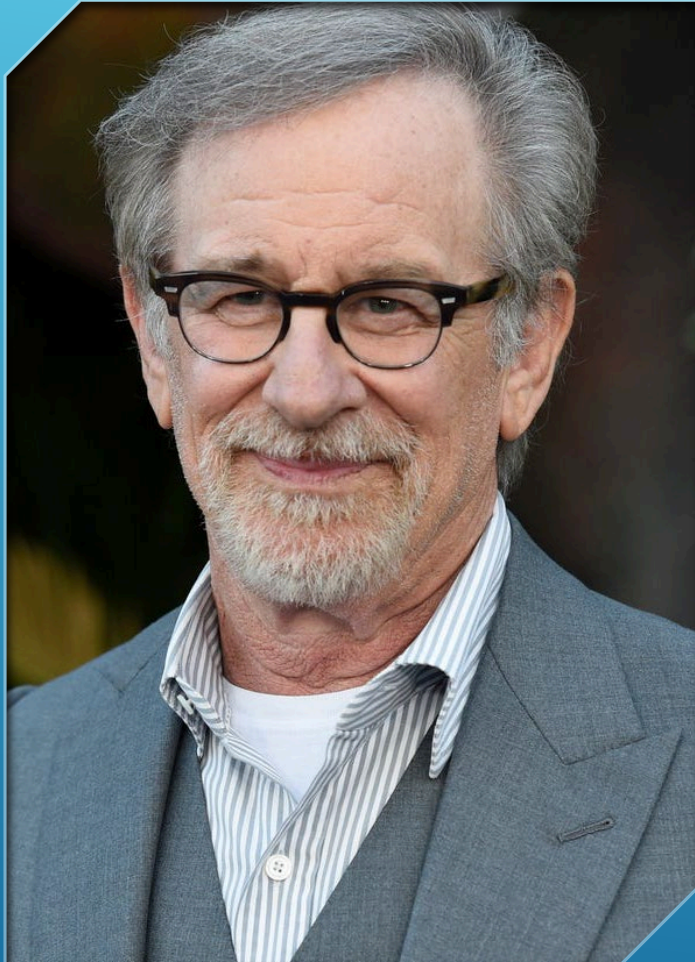
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FRIDA KAHLO

Injured in a trolley accident when she was a teenager and forced into bed rest for several months to heal a broken back, and a back that would never fully heal 100 percent, Mexican artist Frida Kahlo is one of the most well-known artists with disabilities of the 20th century. She also contracted polio when she was six and had a misshapen leg. Frida is most known for her self-portraits, many which portrayed her in her wheelchair. While her tumultuous relationship with other famed Mexican artist Diego Rivera is another aspect of her life Frida is known for, Frida will always be known for her fierce spirit of survival through artistic expression.

Photo/info credit: [huffingtonpost.com](https://www.huffingtonpost.com) and [google.com](https://www.google.com)



Photo/info credit: google.com

STEVEN SPIELBERG

Can you believe that the man behind such films as Indiana Jones, Jurassic Park, and E.T. has a learning disability? It's true. Visionary director and producer Steven Spielberg grew up struggling with schoolwork. It took him two years longer than his peers to learn to read, a fact for which he was often bullied. Finally, officially diagnosed with dyslexia at age 60, Spielberg has managed to find some inspiration in his diagnosis. He often encourages young artists with their own learning disabilities, telling them, "You are not alone, and while you will have dyslexia for the rest of your life, you can dart between the raindrops to get where you want to go. It will not hold you back."



KEIRA KNIGHTLEY

When you consider how many scripts an actor must read, it might seem like the profession would be a turn-off for a person with dyslexia. For film star Keira Knightley, who was diagnosed with dyslexia at age six, she actually used her love of acting to overcome the condition. "Dyslexia is like a wall... it's very difficult to see over it," she told the BBC. "I was really lucky because I had acting... it was like a carrot that was being dangled in front of me because I had to be able to read those lines in order to do it." Make sure you don't fall for these myths about dyslexia.

Photo/info credit: google.com



DR. TEMPLE GRANDIN

Dr. Temple Grandin is well known to many for her trailblazing work as a spokesperson for people with autism and her lifelong work with animal behavior. Dr. Grandin has been with Colorado State University (CSU) for over 25 years. Grandin has been referred to as the "most famous person working at CSU" by her peers.

In 2010, she was named by Time 100 as one of the 100 most influential people in the world and is the subject of the award-winning biographical film, *Temple Grandin*. She also invented the "hug box," a device designed to calm those on the autism spectrum.

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and google.com



HABEN GIRMA

Haben Girma has been advocating for herself since she attended elementary school in Oakland. She became the first deaf-blind person to graduate from law school when she earned her degree from Harvard Law School in 2013. She is a civil rights attorney who advocates for disability rights, a public speaker who travels the country changing people's perceptions of the disability community in the media, and has been featured in Forbes "30 Under 30" and on NBC and NPR.

Photo/info credit: google.com



JIM CARREY

Maybe this one is not so surprising. But in all seriousness, legendary comedian Jim Carrey has long been honest about his struggles with various learning disabilities and the ways in which those differences have affected his mental health. Diagnosed with both dyslexia and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) as a child, Carrey recalls experiencing myriad behavioral issues while growing up in school. Treatment such as medication has helped Carrey immensely, as has focusing his energy into his very physical comedy and being a spokesman for those with ADHD.

Photo/info credit: google.com



RICK HOYT

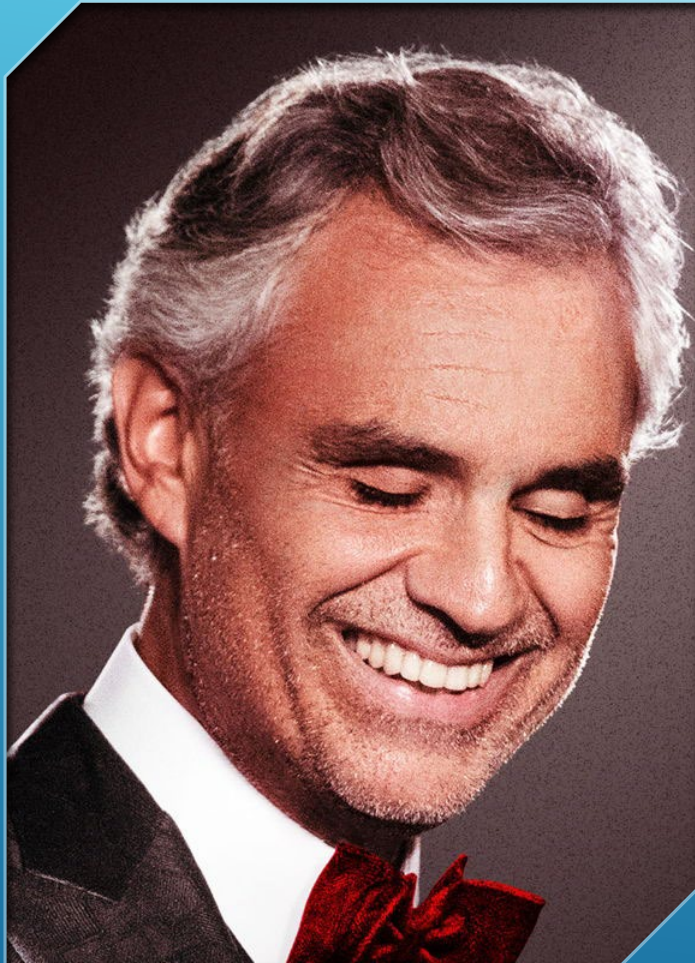
At birth, Rick was diagnosed with severe cerebral palsy and the doctors were blunt. They told his family “Forget about Rick, put him away, put him in an institution, he’s going to be a vegetable for the rest of his life.” Institutionalizing their child was never an option for his parents, and they decided to raise him just like his two brothers.

At 11, Rick was fitted with a computer that enabled him to communicate. With his communication device, Rick was also able to attend public schools for the first time.

Rick went on to graduate from Boston University in 1993 with a degree in special education and later worked at Boston College in a computer lab helping to develop systems to aid in communication and other tasks for people with disabilities.

Team Hoyt was formed in 1997 after Rick asked his father Dick if they could run in a race together to benefit a lacrosse player at his school who had become paralyzed. They have run the Boston Marathon 32 times and in 1992, Team Hoyt biked and ran across the US, completing a full 3,735 miles in 45 days.

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ANDREA BOCELLI

Famed Italian tenor Andrea Bocelli is known for his beautiful voice but what many may not know is that he was diagnosed with congenital glaucoma not long after birth and had limited vision. At the age of 12, he lost his sight completely. "Growing up, every day they told me 'this is too dangerous' but I don't care," he told The Independent. "Everything is dangerous. To take the car and go out on the highway is also very dangerous or to fly in a helicopter. I like very much to ride horses. I like soccer, I have had a passion for boxing since I was a child although it would be stupid for me to box. Check out the incredible health benefits of music."

Photo/info credit: google.com



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and google.com

ROBERT HENSEL

As an international poet and writer, Hensel has never let his disability come in the way of his artistic mind. “There were many times that my schoolmates would laugh at me and call me names simply because of their lack of understanding of why I was a little different,” he explains.

He was awarded the title of one of the best poets of the 20th century with over 900 publications worldwide and retains the world record at Guinness and Ripley’s for the longest nonstop wheelie in a wheelchair- covering a total distance of 6.178 miles.

Hensel is a leading figure within the disability community, advocating for the right and treatment of all individuals living with disabilities across the world.

“There is no greater disability in society, than the inability to see a person as more,” he says.



HELEN KELLER

One of the most inspiring stories of an individual who managed to succeed despite all odds is Helen Keller, who overcame the adversity of being deaf and blind to become one of the leading humanitarians in the 20th century. Born physically normal, Keller lost her sight at the age of 19 months, leaving her to live in a world that seemed totally isolated. Keller learned to read and write in braille and to use hand signals of the deaf-mute, which she could understand only by touch.

Keller grew up to be a prolific author and campaigned heavily for women and worker's rights. Widely honored throughout the world, she founded the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU).

Through her amazing work, Helen was able to alter the world's perception of the capabilities of the handicapped and show others how courage, intelligence, and dedication can help strengthen the human spirit to overcome adversity.

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MARLEE MATLIN

Marlee is a very notable famous deaf actress. Since she was only 18-months-old, Marlee Matlin has suffered from deafness caused by a severe illness with high fevers. However, by the time she was 21, she won the Academy Award for the film *Children of a Lesser God*, being the only deaf actor/actress to win the award to date.

Marlee is also known for her performances in: *Switched at Birth*, *The West Wing*, and *The L Word*. She also works in deaf activism to promote awareness of the community to the rest of the world.

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NICK VUJICIC

Nick is a world-renowned motivational speaker, with a diagnosis of Tetra-Amelia Syndrome, who holds the power to positively impact others, especially physically-challenged individuals who may have felt depressed or confronted by their limitations.

As a child, he struggled not only physically but emotionally, yet eventually came to terms with his disability and at the age of 17, starting his own not-for profit organization called *Life without Limbs*.

He graduated from Griffith University with a double major in Accounting and Financial Planning. He now travels as a motivational speaker, is the author of numerous books including *Your Life Without Limits*, and is happily married with two children.

In his words: "Dream big my friend and never give up. We all make mistakes but none of them are mistakes. Take one day at a time. Embrace the positive attitudes, perspectives, principles, and truths I share, and you too will overcome."

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DAVID BROWN

David is known as the world's fastest completely blind runner. He was diagnosed with Kawasaki disease at 15-months-old, which led him to completely lose his sight by age 13.

Brown says he was “living in fear for a number of years”- until he discovered his passion for running. After winning an essay contest and attending the 2008 games in Beijing, he knew he wanted to compete himself.

Paralympic runners train and compete alongside sighted guides. At the Rio Games in 2016, Brown and his partner Jerome Avery ran 10.99 in the men's 100-meter dash to take home the gold (that was the first year that guides were awarded their own medals).

He is now preparing to race in Tokyo with a new partner.

Photo/info credit: krwg.org and google.com



CHRISTY BROWN

Christy Brown was an Irish author, painter, and poet who had severe cerebral palsy. He was born in Dublin, and one of 13 surviving children in a Catholic family.

He was severely disabled by cerebral palsy and incapable for years of deliberate movement or speech. Doctors considered him to be intellectually disabled, as well. However, his mother continued to speak to him, work with him, and try to teach him.

One day, he famously snatched a piece of chalk from his sister with his left foot to make a mark on a slate. At the time, only his left foot responded to his will and using his foot he was able to communicate for the first time.

He is most famous for his autobiography *My Left Foot*, which was later made into an Academy Award-winning film of the same name.

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FRANKLIN ROOSEVELT

Roosevelt was the 32nd President of the United States and in 1921 contracted an illness (at that time believed to be poliomyelitis) that left him with total and permanent paralysis from the waist down.

Due to fear of what the public would think, the news of his disability was kept secret for numerous years and Roosevelt continued to serve his nation in an honorable and memorable way.

He tried a wide range of therapies, including hydrotherapy and being fitted with iron braces.

In private, he used a wheelchair. Despite his paralysis, he retained his humor and charisma and was elected President an unprecedented four times.



RUTH SIENKIEWICZ-MERCER

Ruth was a quadriplegic and an American disability rights activist, best known for her autobiography *I Raise My Eyes to Say Yes*, co-authored with Steven B. Kaplan.

Born a healthy baby, she was afflicted with a severe bout of encephalitis at the age of five weeks. At 13 months, she was diagnosed with cerebral palsy resulting from the encephalitis and consequently her control over her entire body, except for her face and digestive system, was severely impaired.

Due to her inability to communicate normally, she was diagnosed as an imbecile at the age of 5 and as a teenager, was sent to an institution for the mentally and physically disabled where she was severely mistreated for 8 years.

In 1978, she and some fellow patients were moved into their own apartment and soon after, she married and then published her autobiography to critical acclaim.

Despite never speaking a word or having the ability to walk or feed herself, she changed many people with her words and became a world-renowned disability rights activist.

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RALPH BRAUN

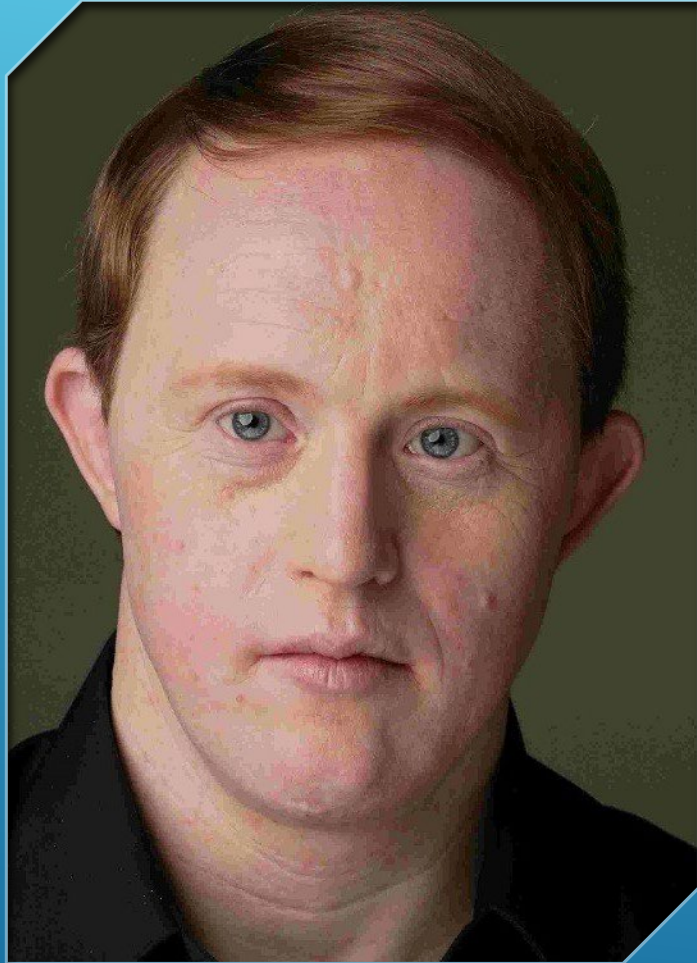
Ralph Braun was the late founder and CEO of the Braun Corporation, which is today one of the leading manufacturers of wheelchairs and accessible vehicles.

At the age of six, Braun was diagnosed with muscular dystrophy and doctors told his parents he would never be independent. Ralph and his parents; however, were determined to prove them wrong.

In the next few years, Braun lost his ability to walk and he sent his mind to engineering the first battery-powered scooter. During his teen years, he created various motorized vehicles to help him get around and by 1991, he had created the first wheelchair accessible minivan.

Named the “Champion of Change” by President Barrack Obama, his personal drive to keep him independent evolved into BraunAbility, the leading manufacturer of mobility products across the world.

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and google.com



CHRIS BURKE

Chris Burke is an American actor who is best known for his character Charles “Corky” Thatcher on the television series *Life Goes On*.

When Chris was born, his parents were told to institutionalize him but instead they decided to raise him at home and nurture his talents. He was encouraged by his supportive family to follow his dreams of being on TV and Chris became the first person with Down Syndrome to star in a weekly television series.

He has since appeared on numerous TV shows and currently serves as the National Down Syndrome Society (NDSS) Ambassador.

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MARLA RUNYAN

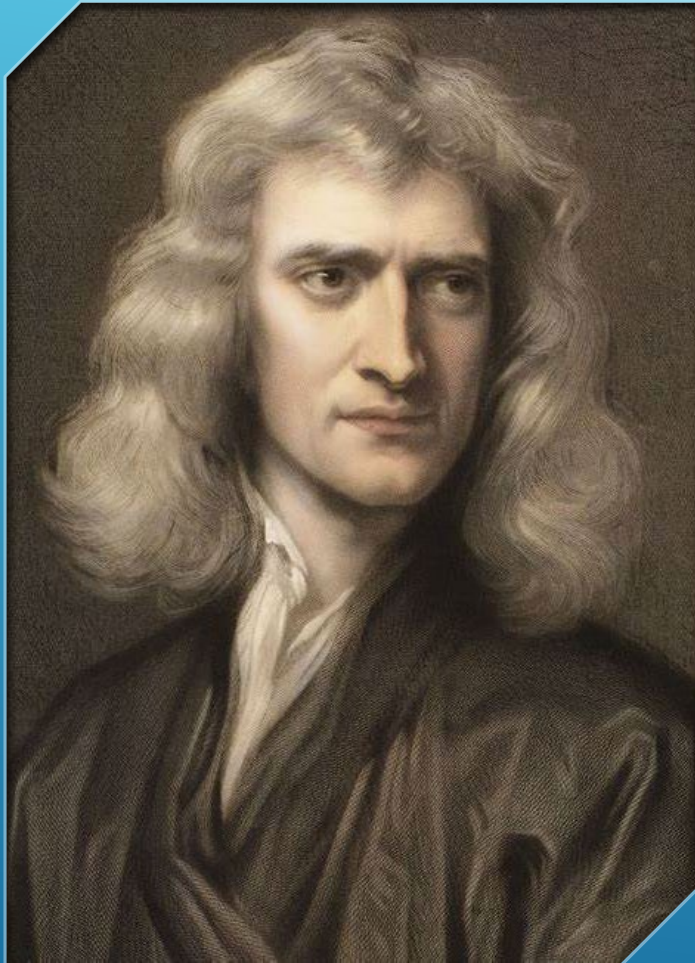
At the age of nine, Marla developed Stargardt's Disease, which is a form of macular degeneration that left her legally blind.

Marla went on to become a three-time national champion in the women's 5000 meters. She won four gold medals in the 1992 summer Paralympics.

In the 1996 Paralympics, she won silver in the shot put and gold in the Pentathlon.

In 2000, she became the first legally blind Paralympian to compete in the Olympic Games in Sydney. A year later, she co-wrote and published her autobiography: *No Finish Line: My Life As I See It*.

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SIR ISAAC NEWTON

According to experts, Newton showed many signs of having Asperger's Syndrome. He hardly spoke, had few friends, and was so engrossed in his work he often forgot to eat.

If no one turned up to his lectures, he gave them anyway, talking to an empty room. He demonstrated an obsessive single-mindedness that is commonly associated with Asperger's.

Newton is now widely recognized as one of the most influential scientists of all time and a key figure in the scientific revolution.

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