

2026 Disability Awareness Month Commendation Nominees - Individual

NOMINEE #1 – 1st of 2 Nominations

Name: Jack Galanty

Website: <https://culvercitypride.org/>

Has the nominee lived, worked, or volunteered in Culver City? Please provide specifics

[Jack] lives and works in Culver City. [He] did Village Book Store window displays, worked retail, [and] design work freelance.

Why should the nominee receive the recognition? Please provide two or three specific examples.

For years Jack Galanty has volunteered countless hours organizing Culver City PRIDE and participating in mobility and accessibility initiatives throughout the city, demonstrating exceptional leadership and sustained unpaid service that enriches and unites our community.

What is the nominee doing or have they done to benefit individuals with disabilities in Culver City over the past year(s)?

Jack's advocacy focuses on promoting mobility and accessibility projects in Culver City. Living with Cerebral Palsy, his efforts directly benefit individuals with disabilities by ensuring equitable access to public spaces, championing wheelchair and bicycle accessibility, and expanding community opportunities.

If applicable, what barriers has the nominee had to overcome to serve their community?

He has Cerebral Palsy that impacts his balance and walking. He only rides a 3-wheeled e-bike.

2026 Disability Awareness Month Commendation Nominees - Individual

NOMINEE #1 – 2nd of 2 Nominations

Name: Jack Galanty

Website: none

Has the nominee lived, worked, or volunteered in Culver City? Please provide specifics

Jack is the Disability Member of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) and is currently the Vice Chair. He previously joined the BPAC as a student member in 2017 when he was a student at Culver City High School (CCHS). He has volunteered with Culver City PRIDE since 2024 and this year was a co-lead organizer, responsible for graphic design and marketing, event logistics, site layout, run-of-show, and coordination with performers, vendors, sponsors, and city partners. He worked for the Village Well creating window displays for several years. He has also volunteered with the Culver City Historical Society. Jack is a 2018 graduate of CCHS.

Why should the nominee receive the recognition? Please provide two or three specific examples.

Jack is lifelong resident of Culver City and a brave example of a person with a significant physical disability living a full life and contributing to his community. As listed below: 1) He is Vice Chair and disability member of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee; 2) He is an organizer of the Culver City PRIDE event; 3) He is a reliable and consistent attendee at Culver City public meetings, using his lived experience to make public comment about issues that affect individuals with disabilities. Despite his young age, he doesn't shy away from dispelling stereotypes and prejudices about people with disability. He has demonstrated a deep commitment to community service and deserves to be recognized.

What is the nominee doing or have they done to benefit individuals with disabilities in Culver City over the past year(s)?

Jack gives public comment at multiple city meetings, including City Council, the Planning Commission, the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee, and others, using his lived experience to address issues affecting individuals with disabilities.

If applicable, what barriers has the nominee had to overcome to serve their community?

Jack Galanty has been disabled since birth due to cerebral palsy. He can only walk a short distance and with considerable difficulty. He is unable to drive and conducts his active life using a wheelchair and public transportation or riding a 3-wheel adaptive bike.

2026 Disability Awareness Month Commendation Nominees - Individual

NOMINEE #2

Name: Paul Matazewski

Website: <https://ccms.ccusd.org/>

Has the nominee lived, worked, or volunteered in Culver City? Please provide specifics

[Paul] is a special education teacher at Culver City Middle School.

Why should the nominee receive the recognition? Please provide two or three specific examples.

Paul consistently demonstrates a deep commitment to meeting each of his students exactly where they are. Rather than applying a one-size-fits-all approach, he takes the time to understand each student's individual needs and designs plans tailored specifically to help them grow from their current starting point. His dedication shows up not just in his planning, but in his day-to-day presence with students. He is fully invested in their progress and success, building the kind of trust that allows students to take risks and make meaningful gains. Paul's commitment to individualized, student-centered support reflects the very spirit of Disability Awareness Month: recognizing the strength, dignity, and potential in every student, and doing the work to help them reach it.

What is the nominee doing or have they done to benefit individuals with disabilities in Culver City over the past year(s)?

For several years, Paul has served as a dedicated special education teacher at Culver City Middle School, supporting students with exceptionalities across grade levels. His impact goes beyond the classroom: he consistently maintains strong, ongoing communication between students, teachers, and families to ensure each student's needs are understood and met from every angle. This collaborative approach has helped build a more connected support system around his students — one where families feel informed and included, and teachers are equipped with the context they need to help students succeed both academically and personally. Paul's sustained, year-after-year commitment to this work reflects a genuine investment in the long-term success and dignity of students with disabilities in our community.

If applicable, what barriers has the nominee had to overcome to serve their community?

One of the ongoing challenges Paul has navigated is working alongside administrators and staff who did not always have the training or background to fully understand how to meet the needs of students with exceptionalities. Rather than viewing this as a limitation, Paul took it upon himself to bridge that gap — proactively training and supporting his colleagues so that student needs could be met consistently, both inside and outside his own classroom. This work required patience, persistence, and a willingness to advocate for his students even when the systems around him weren't yet built to support them. Through his efforts, Paul has helped shift the broader school community toward greater understanding and capacity to serve students with disabilities.

2026 Disability Awareness Month Commendation Nominees - Individual

NOMINEE #3

Name: Princess Walker

Website: none

Has the nominee lived, worked, or volunteered in Culver City? Please provide specifics

Yes

Why should the nominee receive the recognition? Please provide two or three specific examples.

[They're] really good at their work.

What is the nominee doing or have they done to benefit individuals with disabilities in Culver City over the past year(s)?

[Princess has] participated in [daily work] tasks.

If applicable, what barriers has the nominee had to overcome to serve their community?

[Princess has] applied for workshops, zoom meetings, and meetings.

2026 Disability Awareness Month Commendation Nominees - Business

NOMINEE #1

EC Kids Fitness & Nutrition (aka Everything Counts for Kids!)

Founded: 2011

Years in service to those with disabilities: 15

Is the organization based in Culver City? Yes

Percentage of clients served in Culver City and/or are Culver City Residents: unknown

Website: <https://www.ecfkids.com/>

Has the nominee lived, worked, or volunteered in Culver City? Please provide specifics

Yes. They used to hold their classes at [Veterans Park] and they have after-school classes at Farragut. Within the last few years, they were able to lease space in the Fox Hills area.

Why should the nominee receive the recognition? Please provide two or three specific examples.

Owners JT and Debbie do everything they can to include all children interested in their program. They adapt the program to make every child feel like a true ninja warrior who achieved something great. Whether it's conquering a somersault or balance beam they cheer on the kids throughout the classes they teach. They have hosted an all-district play date for primary kids in [Culver City Unified School District] with IEPs and 504s at a discounted rate to allow them the space to get their sensory needs met and to enjoy the space together. When families are trying to get funding for their classes they still allow them to attend and work out payment plans with the local Regional Center for the families or with the family themselves, so price is not a barrier. With our son Lucas, he is technically aged out of their program, but they still allow him to come and participate when he wants to knowing he gets so much joy and sensory input from their classes. They are welcoming to all within the community and find a safe way for all children to participate. I am so grateful they are in our neighborhood and love seeing the complete joy and confidence building they bring to their students and the families of their students.

What is the nominee doing or have they done to benefit individuals with disabilities in Culver City over the past year(s)?

As I indicated above, they always make room in their classes for all abilities. They find a way to adapt their program to be safe for all.

If applicable, what barriers has the nominee had to overcome to serve their community?

It took them a while to find a space to rent. Until they did, they would hold classes at local [Culver City] parks like Tellefson and Veterans.