

## ATTACHMENT 2

### 2025 Disability Awareness Month Commendation Nominees - Individual

#### NOMINEE #1

Jesse Rincon

#### Why should the nominee receive the recognition?

Jesse Rincon is very well known throughout his neighborhood and at the places he volunteers at.

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

Jesse Rincon volunteers his time at Love the City thrift store and at Six Pax Gym. He helps at Love the City with sorting items brought in, cleaning the store, and helping with customers. At Six Pax Gym, he helps with sanitizing and cleaning the equipment. Plus, all the customers love him.

### 2025 Disability Awareness Month Commendation Nominees - Individual

#### NOMINEE #2

Anita Sicolo

#### Why should the nominee receive the recognition?

Her youngest son, who is 5-1/2 years old, has a disability where he cannot walk, talk, or do anything for himself. She is a single mother of 5 children, 16 and younger. Absolutely no support from her spouse.

Anita has a full-time job. Her son gets some support during the weekdays from a nurse. Nights and weekends she has to manage her son on her own.

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

One of her jobs as a pediatrician is to take care of children with spina bifida, with various levels of disabilities.

## **2025 Disability Awareness Month Commendation Nominees - Individual**

### **NOMINEE #3**

**Terron Young**

**Website:** [www.brownbqc.org](http://www.brownbqc.org)

### **Why should the nominee receive the recognition?**

The nominee has demonstrated outstanding dedication and commitment to advancing disability awareness and inclusion throughout their career and community involvement. Their efforts have significantly contributed to creating a more accessible and equitable environment for individuals with disabilities. Through advocacy, education, and direct support, the nominee has inspired others to embrace diversity and foster a culture of respect and understanding.

Their work includes organizing awareness campaigns, developing resources that empower people with disabilities, and collaborating with local organizations to promote accessibility. The nominee's passion and leadership have made a measurable impact, breaking down barriers and encouraging a more inclusive society. Recognizing their contributions during Disability Awareness Month would highlight their invaluable role and encourage others to follow their example.

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

Over the past year(s), the nominee has actively championed the rights and inclusion of individuals with disabilities through a variety of impactful initiatives. They have organized and led multiple awareness campaigns aimed at educating the community about disability issues and promoting accessibility in public spaces. The nominee also collaborated with local schools and businesses to implement disability-friendly policies and practices, ensuring environments are welcoming and accommodating.

Additionally, the nominee has provided direct support by volunteering with disability advocacy groups, mentoring individuals with disabilities to enhance their personal and professional development and facilitating workshops that equip families and caregivers with valuable resources and information. Their hands-on approach and consistent advocacy have resulted in tangible improvements, such as increased accessibility in community programs and heightened awareness among stakeholders about the importance of inclusion.

## **2025 Disability Awareness Month Commendation Nominees - Business**

### **NOMINEE #1**

#### **Disability Community Resource Center**

**Founded:** 1976

**Years in service to those with disabilities:** 48

**Percentage of clients served in Culver City and/or are Culver City Residents:** 2%

**Website:** [www.dcrc.co](http://www.dcrc.co)

#### **Why should the nominee receive the recognition?**

Founded in 1976, the Disability Community Resource Center (DCRC) (formerly Westside Center for Independent Living) has served people with disabilities for almost 50 years including Culver City residents. Moreover, DCRC has been a leader in disaster preparedness and emergency preparedness training and resources for the City of Culver City, working with Christine Parra (the emergency manager) to review the City's 2024 Emergency Operation Plan to ensure it addressed the needs of the whole community – including people with disabilities; some of which were utilized to make updates to the plan.

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

Disability Community Resource Center (DCRC), founded in 1976, is a Center for Independent Living or CIL. CILs are community-based, cross-disability, non-profit organizations that are designed and operated by people with disabilities. CILs are unique in that they operate according to a strict philosophy of consumer control, wherein people with all types of disabilities directly govern and staff the organization. CILs provide: Peer Support, Information and Referral, Individual and Systems Advocacy, Independent Living Skills Training, and Transition Support.

DCRC is dedicated to supporting people with disabilities and seniors to achieve and maintain self-directed and community based independent lives. DCRC's members are a diverse group of people of all ages and from all ethnic, cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds. To serve this population, we provide services in English and Spanish as well as having language line services available to provide communications in all the principal languages spoken in Los Angeles County. We are also equipped to provide communications and services to members using Assistive Technology devices, thereby facilitating our work with members who may be blind or deaf. We work together with persons living with any type of disability, including but not limited to intellectual, developmental, hearing, learning, mobility impaired, physical, mental health, substance abuse, traumatic brain injury and visual disabilities. We serve the communities of: Baldwin Hills, Beverly Hills, Brentwood, Carson, Century City, Cheviot Hills, Culver City, El Segundo, Fox Hills, Gardena, Harbor City, Hawthorne, Hermosa Beach, Inglewood, Ladera Heights, Lawndale, Lomita, Malibu, Manhattan Beach, Marina Del Rey, Mar

Vista, Pacific Palisades, Palms, Palos Verdes, Playa del Rey, Playa Vista, Rancho Park, Redondo Beach, Santa Monica, San Pedro, Torrance, Venice, Westchester, West Hollywood, West Los Angeles and Westwood.

Though only about 2% of our clients reside in Culver City, DCRC has been a leader in disaster preparedness and emergency preparedness training and resources for the City of Culver City working with Christine Parra (the emergency manager) to review the City's 2024 Emergency Operation Plan to ensure it addressed the needs of the whole community – including people with disabilities; some of which were utilized to make updates to the plan. Moreover, DCRC staff provided training to staff of the Culver City Youth Camp on the working with people with disabilities as well as an overarching review of the ADA and other aspects of disabilities.

Most recently, in response to the Palisades and Eaton Canyon Fires, DCRC was the recipient of a grant from the Albertson's Foundation to assist wildfire victims with disabilities in restoring lost durable medical equipment including power wheelchairs.

## **2025 Disability Awareness Month Commendation Nominees - Business**

### **NOMINEE #2**

#### **Echo Center/Echo Horizon School**

**Founded:** 1983

**Years in service to those with disabilities:** 42

**Percentage of clients served in Culver City and/or are Culver City Residents:** 100%

**Website:** [www.echohorizon.org](http://www.echohorizon.org)

### **Why should the nominee receive the recognition?**

The nominee should receive recognition for its exceptional commitment to inclusive education through the Echo Center program. At Echo Horizon School, approximately 15 percent of the student body is deaf or hard of hearing (DHH) and uses hearing technology. Rather than being served in a separate setting, these students learn side by side with their hearing peers, who make up the remaining 85 percent of the school community.

As a certified nonpublic school (NPS), Echo Horizon has built a fully integrated program where DHH students receive the support they need to develop listening and spoken language skills while participating fully in the academic and social life of the school. The Echo Center model exemplifies best practices in inclusive education and demonstrates the positive impact of thoughtful integration on all students. This commitment to equity and access makes Echo Horizon a leader in serving students with disabilities and a strong candidate for recognition.

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

For over 40 years, the Echo Center at Echo Horizon School has created and sustained an inclusive educational environment that directly benefits students who are deaf or hard of hearing (DHH). In recent years, the program has continued to model best practices in inclusive education by fully integrating DHH students into general education classrooms alongside their hearing peers. This approach promotes empathy, respect for differences, and strong communication skills across the entire student body.

Echo Center teachers work in close partnership with general education teachers to provide individualized support through small group instruction, language scaffolding, and regular checks for understanding. Classroom hearing technology ensures that all students can clearly hear instruction and participate fully in class discussions. This model not only supports the academic and social growth of DHH students, but also fosters a school culture rooted in compassion, collaboration, and accessibility for all.

**2025 Disability Awareness Month Commendation Nominees - Business**

**NOMINEE #3**

**Love the City Thrift Store**

**Founded:** 2014

**Years in service to those with disabilities:** 11

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

**Website:** <https://www.lovethecitythrift.org/>

**Why should the nominee receive the recognition?**

Because they have been great with my son, Jesse Rincon, who volunteers there [and] has Down syndrome. They are so loving and patient with him.

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

They have allowed him to volunteer there at the store and with the customers.

## **2025 Disability Awareness Month Commendation Nominees - Business**

### **NOMINEE #4**

**No Limits for Deaf Children and Families** (nominated under the name “No Limits School for the Deaf”)

**Founded:** 1996

**Years in service to those with disabilities:** 29

**Percentage of clients served in Culver City and/or are Culver City Residents:** 10%

**Website:** [www.nolimitsfordeafchildren.org](http://www.nolimitsfordeafchildren.org)

### **Why should the nominee receive the recognition?**

For over 30 years, Dr. Christie's school in Culver City, and satellite schools across the country have been serving children with hearing loss.

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

They get funding for free hearing devices for low-income children. They have a theater program that gives the children the courage to act and grow, as they perform all over the country.

## **2025 Disability Awareness Month Commendation Nominees - Business**

### **NOMINEE #5**

#### **Options for Life Agency**

**Founded:** 1999

**Years in service to those with disabilities:** 26

**Percentage of clients served in Culver City and/or are Culver City Residents:** 30%

**Website:** <https://www.optionsforlifeagency.com>

### **Why should the nominee receive the recognition?**

Options for Life Agency deserves this recognition for its outstanding dedication to enriching the lives of adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Through a person-centered and community-focused approach, the agency ensures that each participant is supported in ways that honor their individual strengths, preferences, and goals.

The agency provides meaningful opportunities for social inclusion, skill-building, and independence, all while fostering a safe and empowering environment. Staff at Options for Life consistently go above and beyond, demonstrating compassion, professionalism, and a deep commitment to advocacy and dignity.

Recognizing Options for Life Agency would highlight the powerful impact it has made in creating inclusive spaces where individuals are truly seen, valued, and supported to thrive.

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

Over the past year, Options for Life Agency has continued to make a meaningful impact in the lives of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities by offering inclusive, community-based programming tailored to each participant's needs and abilities. The agency has expanded volunteer partnerships, facilitated group outings, and created hands-on experiences that promote social skills, independence, and self-confidence.

Staff members work closely with participants and their families to ensure consistent support, clear communication, and person-centered planning. In addition, Options for Life has implemented wellness initiatives, vocational readiness activities, and life skills workshops that encourage growth both inside and outside the program setting.

By actively collaborating with local organizations, advocating for accessibility, and fostering inclusive community involvement, Options for Life continues to break down barriers and ensure individuals with disabilities are fully integrated, respected, and empowered to lead meaningful lives.