

D I S A B L E D P E O P L E

who made a difference!

**Forty Five A4 Posters
of historical and current
disabled people whose lives
have made a difference to
the world and to society**

**KS1/Early Years
Disability Equality
Resource Pack**



Disabled People Who Made A Difference



All Equal All Different KS1/Early Years Disability Equality Resource Pack.

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Designed by Caroline Grimshaw

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The pictures and text here can be found on the CD at the back of the Teacher's Guide.

Copies available, as part of '**all equal all different**' pack, from DEE: £75 including P&P

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UK Disability Forum
for Europe

DISABLED

PEOPLE

who made a difference!

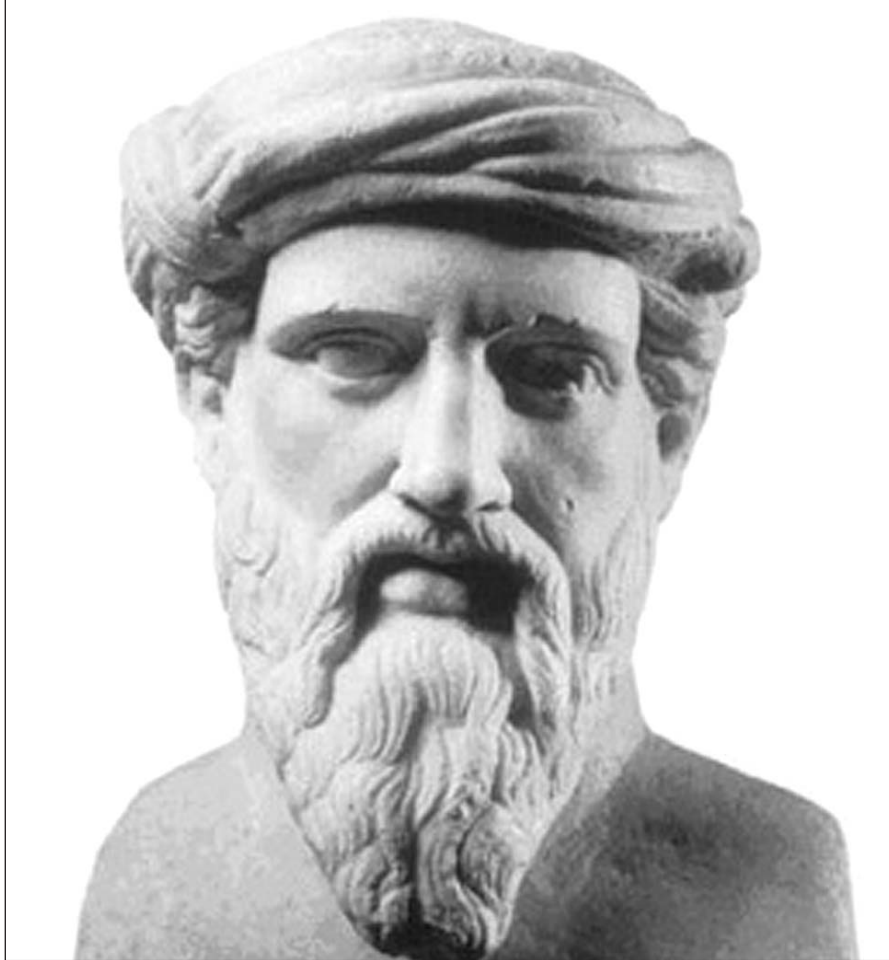
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Pythagoras
Mathematician 569–475BC



Pythagoras was a mathematician.

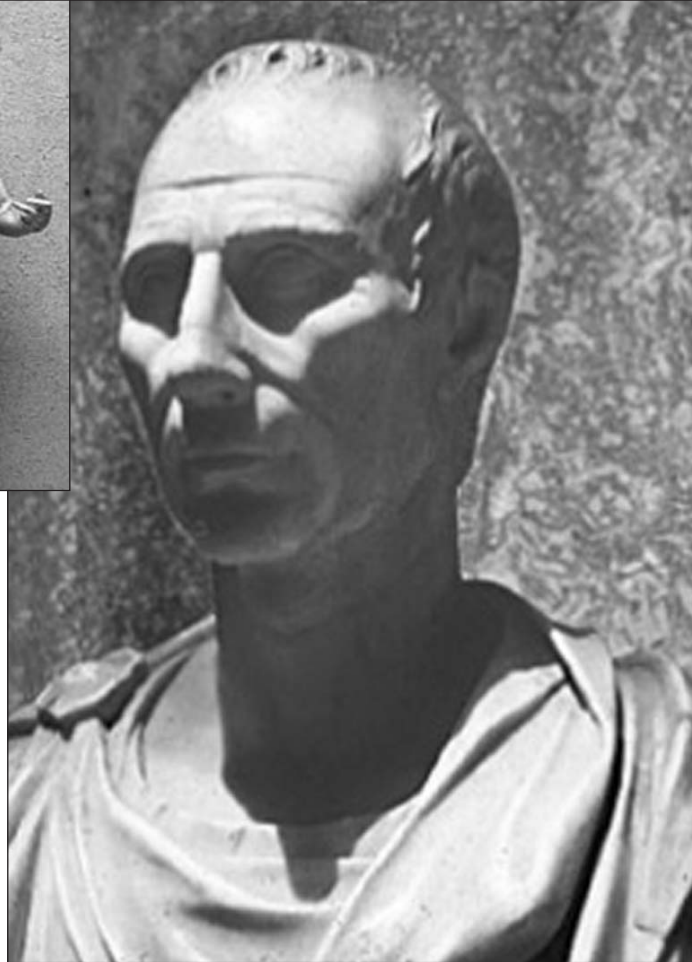
He lived in ancient Greece 2500 year ago. We still use some of his ideas to measure shapes, like triangles. Pythagoras was a disabled man. His impairment was epilepsy. This led to him often having fainting fits.

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Julius Caesar
Emperor 100-44BC



Born July 13, 100 BC in Rome, died March 15, 44 BC in Rome. Caesar was a great Roman General and Emperor who led the invasion of Gaul (France) and Britain in 55BC. Caesar had 'falling sickness' or epilepsy. This led to him fainting and fitting at work and in battle.

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John Milton
Writer and Poet 1608–1674



John Milton was born in London and educated at St. Paul's School and Cambridge University where he became a poet and writer. He travelled widely in Europe.

In 1651 he became blind. He still served in the puritan Government of Oliver Cromwell. After the Civil War he dictated his most famous works; *Paradise Lost*, 1667, and *Paradise Regained*, 1671.

He used his daughter, nephew, friends and paid amanuenses (someone who copies down what you say) to write down his words.

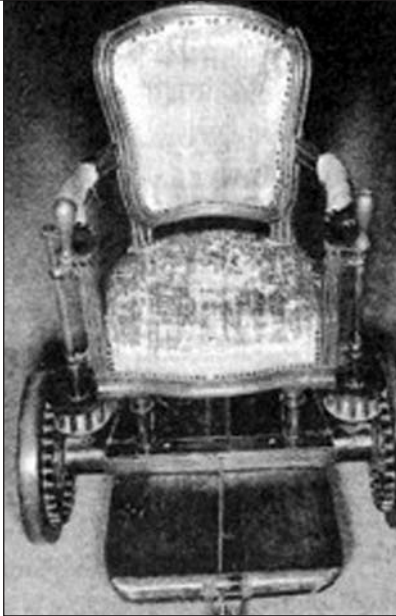
**“WHEN I consider how my light is spent
Ere half my days in this dark world and wide
And that one talent which is death to hide,
Lodged with me useless, though my soul more bent
To serve therewith my Maker, and present
My true account, lest He returning chide,
‘Doth God exact day labour, light denied?’
I fondly ask: But Patience, to prevent
That murmur, soon replies, ‘God doth not need
Either man’s work or His own gifts, who best
Bear His mild yoke, they serve Him best. His state
Is kingly; thousands at His bidding speed,
And post o’er land and ocean without rest:
They also serve who only stand and wait.”**
(From “On His Blindness”.)

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Georges Couthon
Lawyer & Revolutionary 1755-1794



Georges Couthon was a leader of the French Revolution. He was born with paralysed legs that would not support him, but he studied and became a lawyer, helping poor people to get justice. He designed and used a wheelchair that he pushed himself by means of two hand pedals.

He was a politician and a leader of the Republican army at the siege of Lyon.

He was a humane man. He was executed during the French Revolution.

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Ludwig van Beethoven
Composer 1770-1827



Ludwig van Beethoven was a world famous musical composer who wrote some of his most important music when he was deaf. He was born in Bonn, Germany December 1770.

Beethoven demonstrated musical talent when he was five years old. When he was in his twenties he realized that he was going deaf. He was tortured not only by the absence of sound, but the constant whirring and whistling sounds he heard. As his deafness developed, he continued to write and conduct great music.

Beethoven once said of his deafness "I will hear in heaven".

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Lord Byron
Poet 1788-1824



George Gordon Noel Byron, 6th Baron, was born 22 January 1788 in London and died 19 April 1824 in Greece. He was one of the most famous English 'Romantic' poets. He was also a satirist whose poetry and personality captured the imagination of Europe.

Byron had a 'club foot' from birth, which made walking difficult for him. People made fun of him for his 'lameness' as a boy. This hurt him a lot.

I would I were a careless child,
Still dwelling in my Highland cave,
Or roaming through the dusky wild,
Or bounding o'er the dark blue wave;
The cumbrous pomp of Saxon pride
Accords not with the freeborn soul,
Which loves the mountain's craggy side,
And seeks the rocks where billows roll.
(From "I would I were a careless child".)

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Louis Braille
Inventor of Braille 1809-1852



Louis Braille was born in 1809 in a small village outside Paris. At the age of three he accidentally injured his eye while playing with his father's tools, and soon after lost all sight in both of his eyes in 1819. Encouraged by a local priest and his schoolteacher, Louis went on to live and study at the National Institute of the Blind in Paris. Here at the age of 11, he began to experiment with a new raised code for letters based on a "night writing" code used by the French army.

Although Louis introduced his revolutionary Braille code in 1824, the French government did not officially approve his dot system, simply called "Braille," until 1854 - two years after Louis's death. A memorial plaque in his village reads, "He opened the door to knowledge for all those who cannot see." Eventually, Braille became the standard system used throughout the world.

Louis wrote in his diary,
"If my eyes will not tell me about men and events, ideas and doctrines, I must find another way."

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Dostoevsky
Writer 1821-1881



Fyodor Dostoevsky (1821-1881) was a Russian novelist, journalist, short-story writer whose psychological thinking into the human soul had a profound influence on the 20th century novel.

Dostoevsky was born in Moscow, as the second son of a former army doctor. He was educated at home and at a private school. Shortly after the death of his mother in 1837 he was sent to St. Petersburg, where he entered the Army Engineering College. In 1839 Dostoevsky's father was murdered by his own serfs.

Dostoevsky graduated as a military engineer, but resigned in 1844 to devote himself to writing. In 1846 he joined a group of socialists and was sentenced to death by the Tsar. Instead he was sent to prison in Siberia where he wrote books. Then he was forced into the army for six years. These experiences give his writing a very realistic quality. Dostoevsky developed epileptic fits which started in 1840's and got worse for the next forty years of his life.

He eventually died during an epileptic fit.

He wrote some of the most important books in literature
The House of the Dead, (1860), Notes from the Underground (1860's), Crime and Punishment, (1866), The Idiot, (1868), The Possessed, (1871), The Brothers Karamazov (1880).

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Tom Wiggins Pianist 1849-1908



Born a slave, Tom was blind and autistic (with a learning difficulty). He grew up hearing his master's children playing the piano. To everyone's surprise Tom could play any tune on the piano.

His master, General Bethune, took him round concerts and earned a good living. As he grew up, Tom travelled the world giving very popular concerts. He knew 700 tunes and composed 100 of his own. Tom was exploited by the people who controlled his life, though he was also happy.

When asked how he had learned to play so well Tom said, 'God taught me'.

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Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec

Artist 1864-1901



Toulouse Lautrec was born in Albi in 1864, to one of the more important aristocratic families of France. His family settled in Paris in 1873. In 1878 he broke his left thigh, the following year he broke his right thigh. The reason this happened was because he had a rare inherited impairment which stopped calcium getting to his legs. His head and body grew but his legs did not. During the long periods Toulouse was in bed, he developed his drawing and painting skills. Shunning his family and an arranged marriage because of his feelings about being disabled, Toulouse became an Artist. His keen observation and drawings of people led him in a direction which became one of the foundations for Art in the Twentieth Century. Although a brilliant painter, and from a rich family, Toulouse lived in poverty in Paris, drinking himself to an early death. He is probably best remembered for his posters of life in and around the Moulin Rouge nightclub.

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W.C.Handy
Father of the Blues 1873-1956



Born in a log cabin near the banks of the Tennessee River, Florence native William Christopher Handy became known as the undisputed “Father of the Blues”.

Handy, born in 1873, was the son and grandson of tradition bound Methodist ministers, and maintained a strong affinity for religious music, especially Black spirituals, throughout his life.

After his father objected to Handy’s desire to become a professional musician, the young piano and trumpet player left Florence and embarked on a musical odyssey that carried him to St. Louis and Memphis.

With the publication of “Memphis Blues” in 1912, Handy standardized a unique, original form of American music that became known as “the blues”. Later compositions, from “St. Louis Blues” to “Beale St. Blues”, established gritty, soulful standards for this heartfelt musical genre.

In the 1920s, Handy moved to New York City and became a successful music publisher. He lost his eyesight during the 1930s and began publishing music in Braille. In 1943, he lost his balance and fell from a subway station which caused him to go totally blind.

In 1941, he published his autobiography, “Father of the Blues”.

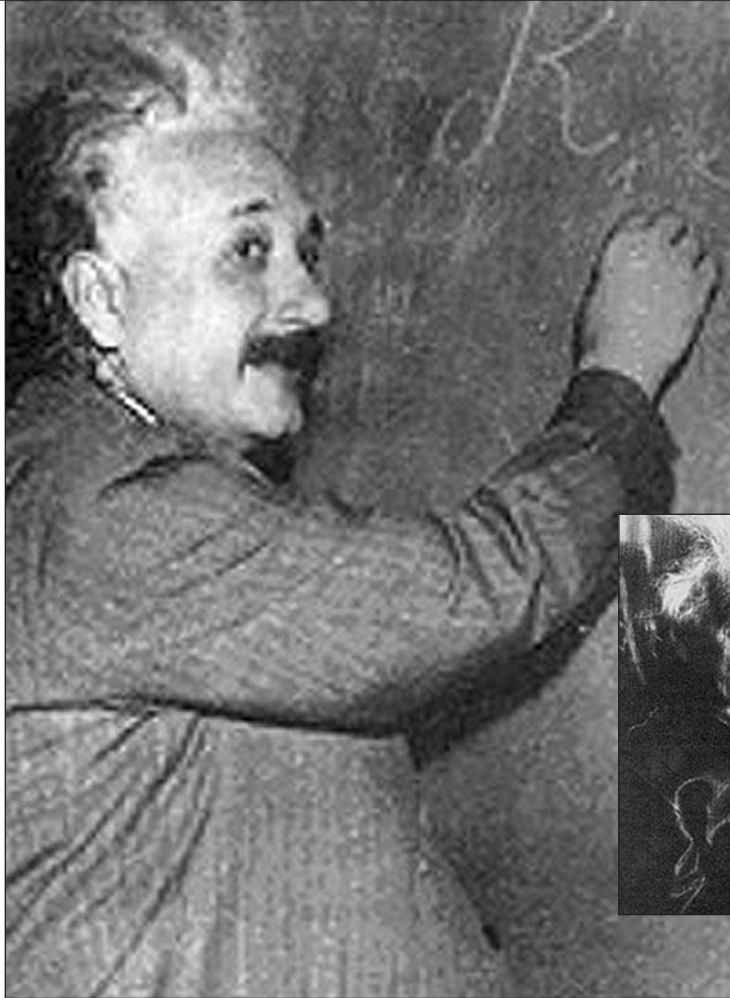
He also published *Negro Authors And Composers of the United States* (1935), and *Unsung Americans Sung* (1944). He continued composing and playing until he died.

D I S A B L E D

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Albert Einstein Scientist 1879-1955



Albert Einstein is universally regarded as the greatest scientist of the 20th century. He was a genius in maths and physics. His thinking still is the basis for modern science and our understanding of the universe.

Although he was involved in inventing the atomic bomb, he was a strong pacifist and campaigned against war.

Einstein had dyslexia, which meant he did not learn in the same way most students learned. He thought in pictures.

“The only real valuable thing is intuition.”

“Not everything that counts can be counted, and not everything that can be counted counts.”

(Sign hanging in Einstein's office at Princeton)

D I S A B L E D

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who made a difference!

Franklin D Roosevelt American President 1888-1945



Franklin D Roosevelt was a lawyer and politician.

In the summer of 1921, when he was 38 he got polio which affected both his legs. He had to use crutches or a wheelchair to walk. In 1928 he was elected Governor of New York. In November 1932 he was elected President of the USA and set about getting the 13 million unemployed people back to work through the New Deal.

Elected four times, President Roosevelt hid his impairment from the American People, because he said "the American people would never elect a cripple as president".

Roosevelt led America into World War II after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour and was the architect of the United Nations whose aim was to bring about a lasting peace after the war. As President, he brought hope as he promised prompt, vigorous action, asserting in his Inaugural Address, "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself."

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Helen Keller Campaigner 1880- 1968



Born on 27 June 1880 in Tuscumbia, a small rural town in Northwest Alabama, USA. Helen's life was to change dramatically. At the age of 19 months, she lost her sight and hearing as a result of meningitis. With the help of Annie Sullivan, Helen learned to read and write and eventually got a degree at a top university. She travelled to the farthest reaches of the world. Helen became a leading figure who publicly campaigned on behalf of disabled people's rights, civil rights, women's rights, and world peace. Helen met the most celebrated personalities of her time.

"The public must learn that the blind man is neither genius, nor a freak, nor an idiot. He has a mind that can be educated, a hand which can be trained, ambitions which it is right for him to strive to realise, and it is the duty of the public to help him make the best of himself so that he can win light through work."

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Dorothea Lange
Photographer 1895-1965



Dorothea Lange walked with a limp due to having polio at the age of seven. She spent her life travelling the world, photographing ordinary people. Her pictures were shown in magazines all over the world.

She said of her impairment:

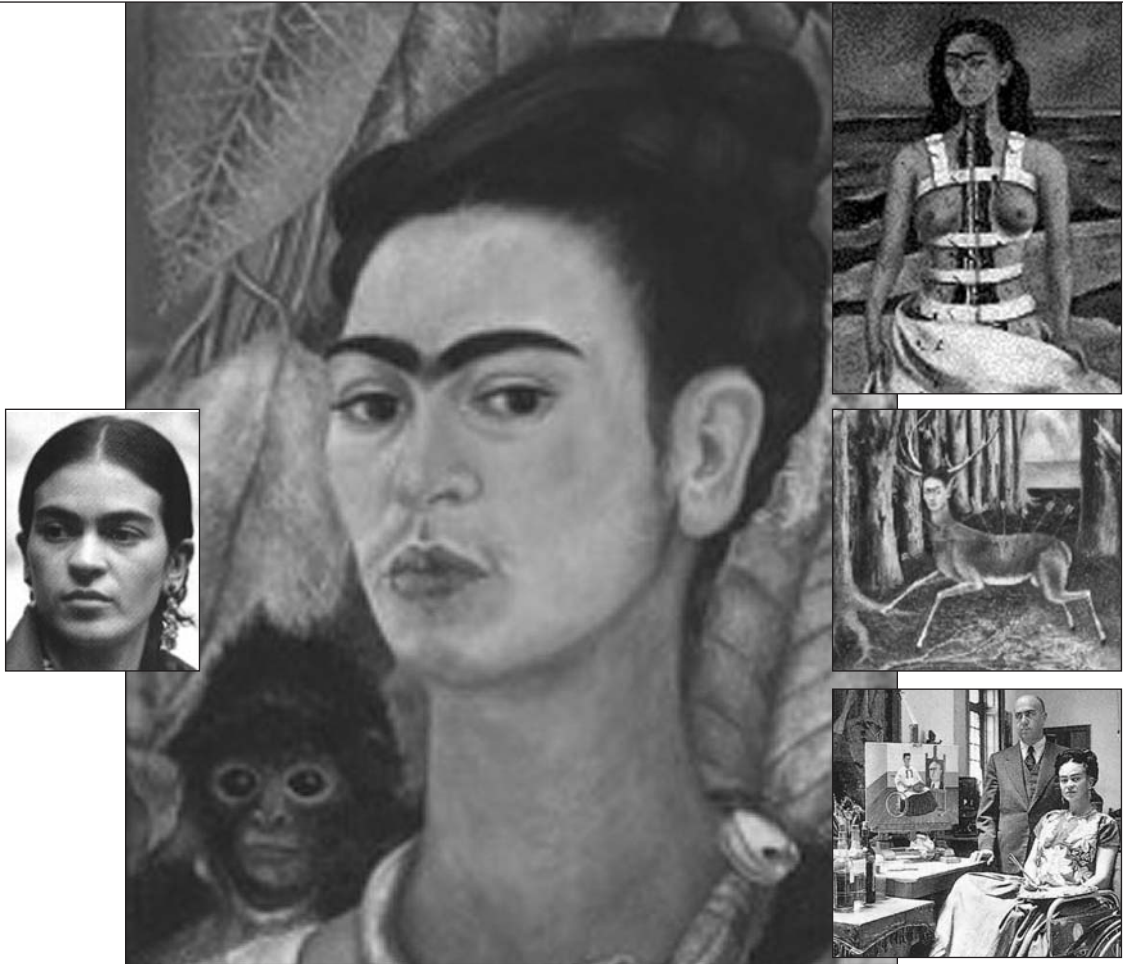
“I think it was perhaps the most important thing that happened to me. It formed me, guided me, instructed me, helped me, humiliated me, all those things at once. I’ve never gotten over it, and I am aware of the force and power of it.”

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Frida Kahlo **Artist 1907-1954**



Frida Kahlo lived in Mexico City and at seven she got polio which affected her leg. She studied hard at school and wanted to paint.

When she was seventeen she was in a bad accident on a tram car and part of the tram went through her body. This led to her having many operations and problems with her back and legs.

She was a passionate painter and tried to capture being a woman, her Mexican roots and the contradictions of the modern age in her art. She was a socialist and had a life time relationship with Diego Riviera, the great Mexican muralist. Frida's art was often influenced by her being a disabled woman.

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The Five Blind Boys of Alabama Gospel Singers



From the group's beginnings in the 1930's, as fellow students at the Talladega Institute for the Deaf and Blind in Alabama, to the present, The Five Blind Boys of Alabama had one goal. According to founding member Clarence Fountain, "We just wanted to sing gospel. We wanted to be popular too, but we wanted to sing gospel." Fountain and his friends (the original group consisted of Fountain, Johnny Fields, JT Hutton, Ollice Thomas, George Scott and the late Velma B. Traylor) adopted the style of gospel singing known as Jubilee and took their show to the road. They turned the fact that all but one member of The Blind Boys of Alabama was, in fact, visually impaired, into a huge selling point.

The group began recording in 1948, and have released albums regularly since then. The Blind Boys had gospel hits with "Oh, Lord Stand by Me" and "I Can See Everybody's Mother But I Can't See Mine" in the 50's. They didn't taste mainstream success until 1988, when they starred in the Obie Award winning Broadway musical, "Gospel at Colonus".

**"We had an advantage over all of the rest of the gospel groups," says Fountain, "because you hardly ever see a bunch of blind guys on stage in concert.
That was an exciting time!"**

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Christy Brown
Writer 1932-1981



Christy Brown was born in Crumlin, Dublin, in 1932.

One of thirteen surviving children, he had cerebral palsy and was considered mentally disabled. In his autobiography "My Left Foot" (also a film) he relates in detail that profound moment when, at age five, he inexplicably grabbed a piece of chalk from his sister's hand with his left foot and, with great difficulty traced the letter A on a piece of slate. For the first time, his family knew for sure that his intellect was intact. For the first time, he could start to communicate with them. His mother taught him to write using a typewriter with his toes. He went on to write a number of books and poetry, winning many prizes.

"It would not be true to say that I am no longer lonely, now that I have reached out to thousands of people and communicated to them all my fears, frustrations and hopes which for so long lay bottled up inside me. I have made myself articulate and understood to people in many parts of the world, and this is something we all wish to do whether we are disabled or not."

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who made a difference!

Paul Hunt
Disability Activist 1937-1979



Paul Hunt developed Muscular Dystrophy while at school. By the age of 13 he had to use a wheelchair. After 4 years in hospital he came to live at 'Le Court' a Leonard Cheshire Home. While here Paul led an important struggle by the disabled residents to have control over their lives.

Paul went on to campaign for disabled peoples' rights setting up the first general disabled peoples organisation, UPIAS (The Union of Physically Impaired Against Segregation)

"The quality of the relationship the community has with its least fortunate members is a measure of its own health."

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who made a difference!

Vic Finkelstein
Social Scientist & Activist 1938-



Vic became a wheelchair user in 1954 after getting a spinal injury on the sports field at school in South Africa. Later he was imprisoned in solitary confinement for 180 days for anti-apartheid activities.

Coming to England, as an Asylum seeker, Vic was one of the key people to set up the Disabled People's Movement in 1974. Working at the Open University he led the setting up of the first course in disability studies in the UK.

Vic's thinking has changed the lives of millions of disabled people around the world.

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Anne Pridmore
Chair of UK Disability Forum for European
Affairs Women's Committee 1939 -



Anne was born with cerebral palsy and has used a wheelchair for the last 15 years. She went through mainstream education and has an honours degree in psychology.

Since 1998 she has chaired the UK Disability Forum for European Affairs (UKDFfEA) Women's Committee and in January 2000 was successful in finding funds to further the work of this committee. This committee has gone from strength to strength and in 2001 held a conference on violence and abuse in respect to disabled women. Now a web site and pack have been produced.

Anne has worked in Europe as a participant on the European Disability Forum Women's Committee who together produced a Manifesto for disabled women and girls. She has also spoken in the European Parliament in Strasbourg and in many European countries on violence and abuse.

D I S A B L E D

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who made a difference!

Stephen Hawking Scientist 1942-



At school Stephen was interested in Maths and Science. He went to Oxford University and then to Cambridge, where he did research in cosmology.

When he was 21 he began to fall over and drop things. He was found to have a worsening condition, Motor Neurone Disease. Though upset, Stephen put his mind into his work, gradually getting more and more personal assistance to do everyday activities. He became a Professor of Mathematics at Cambridge University. His work is respected around the world.

When his ability to speak went he used a computer to write and to speak for him. Throughout his career he has made an important contribution to understanding the universe.

“ I have had motor neurone disease practically all my adult life. Yet it has not prevented me from having a very attractive family and being successful at my work.”

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who made a difference!

Itzhak Perlman Violinist 1945-



Itzhak Perlman, the world famous musician, was born in Tel Aviv, Israel August 31, 1945. He developed polio as a child. He is known throughout the world as a great musician and conductor.

Itzhak has massive hands from supporting his body and this allows him to reach the positions on a violin with great dexterity. He has a wonderful ear for both intonation and musicality.

D I S A B L E D

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who made a difference!

David Blunkett
MP Politician 1947-



David Blunkett current Home Secretary of the UK and previously Secretary of State for Education was born blind to poor working class parents in Sheffield. He went to Sheffield school for the Blind where he got no qualifications. He then went to the Royal Normal College for the blind and two mainstream colleges and evening classes to get to University in Sheffield. This took him six years. After leaving University he became a college teacher. He got elected to the Local Council at the age of 22 and became the leader of Sheffield Council for 7 years before being elected as a Member of Parliament in 1987. David reads and types in Braille and uses a guide dog, Lucy, to help him get around.

“My blindness is purely incidental ... It just focuses on the fact I can't see, rather than the job I am doing.”

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who made a difference!

Richard Rieser
Teacher & Campaigner for Social Justice
1948-



Photo Carlos Reyes-Manzo

Richard Rieser is Director of Disability Equality in Education and was previously a teacher for 23 years. A campaigner for social justice and trade unionist, Richard has been a leader of many campaigns to improve human rights and inclusion.

He has been active in anti-racist organisations locally and nationally.

When Richard was 9 months old he contracted polio, which affected his left leg and right arm. Not allowed to go to his local primary school because he was disabled, Richard was sent to a special school and then other schools as he got older. At school he was bullied and treated badly because he was disabled, which led to him campaigning for equality, and the inclusion of all children in schools together, so they learn to respect difference and value each other.

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who made a difference!

Stevie Wonder R&B star 1950-



Stevie Wonder was born Steveland Morris on May 13, 1950 in Saginaw, Michigan. As a premature baby Wonder was placed in an incubator, and was accidentally given too much oxygen whilst in there. This caused him to go blind. While many would consider this a great handicap, Stevie Wonder later said his blindness was a blessing, allowing him to concentrate on his sense of hearing.

“We all have ability. The difference is how we use it.”

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Micheline Mason
Writer, Artist and Campaigner for Inclusion
1950-



Micheline Mason was born near London. At the age of four days, she was diagnosed with a condition called Osteogenesis Imperfecta, or Brittle Bones. Micheline was then immediately christened in hospital because it was thought she was going to die. However, Micheline did not die, but as she grew up she was not allowed to go to school. Until she was aged 14 she was educated at home by a home tutor, which left her plenty of time to develop her drawing and writing skills. Eventually Micheline went to a special boarding school where she continued her education, but did not learn how to be with non-disabled people. As an adult Micheline became pregnant against the advice of her doctors, and gave birth to a beautiful baby girl – Lucy. Lucy had the brittle bones like her mother. Micheline became completely convinced that her daughter should go to her local primary school and have friends where she lived and be part of the local community. Lucy did all this and is now 20 years old. Micheline joined with other disabled people, parents and allies to form “the Alliance for Inclusive Education” which has successfully campaigned to change schools so that disabled children can go to their local school.

“There is no point building an inclusive education system unless it leads to an inclusive life as a grown up.”

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**Dr Paddy Ladd
Deaf Rights Campaigner, Writer & Lecturer
1950-**



**Being thanked in sign for a lecture at
Cornell University, USA.**

Dr Paddy Ladd was born Deaf and mainstreamed and denied access to sign language. Once he had found his way to the Deaf community by the age of 22, he worked with Deaf young people and their families. On seeing the damage done to them all by Oralism, (denial of sign language) he helped to found the radical Deaf group, National Union of the Deaf. The NUD's successes included winning TV programmes in BSL and changing Deaf education towards bilingualism, along with the work of the British Deaf Association. He then worked on that TV programme for 3 years as presenter, researcher and director, before finding it impossible to get Deaf views across to so many hearing people entrenched in higher positions.

Dr Ladd then founded the London Deaf Video Project for Deaf people to develop their own filming skills and to establish the idea of using BSL videos as a way to translate Government information. After this, he decided to switch to researching Deaf culture because the concept needed a huge amount of work to develop it into a genuine academic and political tool. As part of the process he held the Doctor Chair in Deaf Studies at Gallaudet Deaf University in the USA from 1992-1993 and obtained his PhD in 1999. He is now working at Bristol Centre for Deaf Studies and has recently written an important book, Deaf Culture.

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Nabil Shaban Actor and Activist 1953-



Nabil Shaban was born with brittle bones in Amman, Jordan. His parents gave him up to a children's home and special school in England. From there he went on to college and then university where he got a degree in psychology.

But Nabil wanted to be an actor and fight for disabled people to be included in the arts. Nabil founded GRAEAE theatre company in 1981 (In Greek mythology the Graeae were three conjoined women with one eye and one tooth, who were blackmailed by Perseus who took away both eye and tooth). This was the first theatre company to feature disabled actors.

Nabil has appeared on TV in plays and series, including Dr. Who, on the stage and in radio and films.

He has also made a number of documentaries that challenge the way people think about disabled people.

"I am an activist first and an actor second. I act as a means to an end."

D I S A B L E D

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who made a difference!

Jane Campbell
1959-



Jane Campbell is a Disability Rights Commissioner and Chair of the Social Care Institute of Excellence. Jane has campaigned for disabled peoples' rights for the last 25 years, including setting up the National Centre for Independent Living, and persuading the Government to introduce Direct Payments to disabled people to meet their care needs.

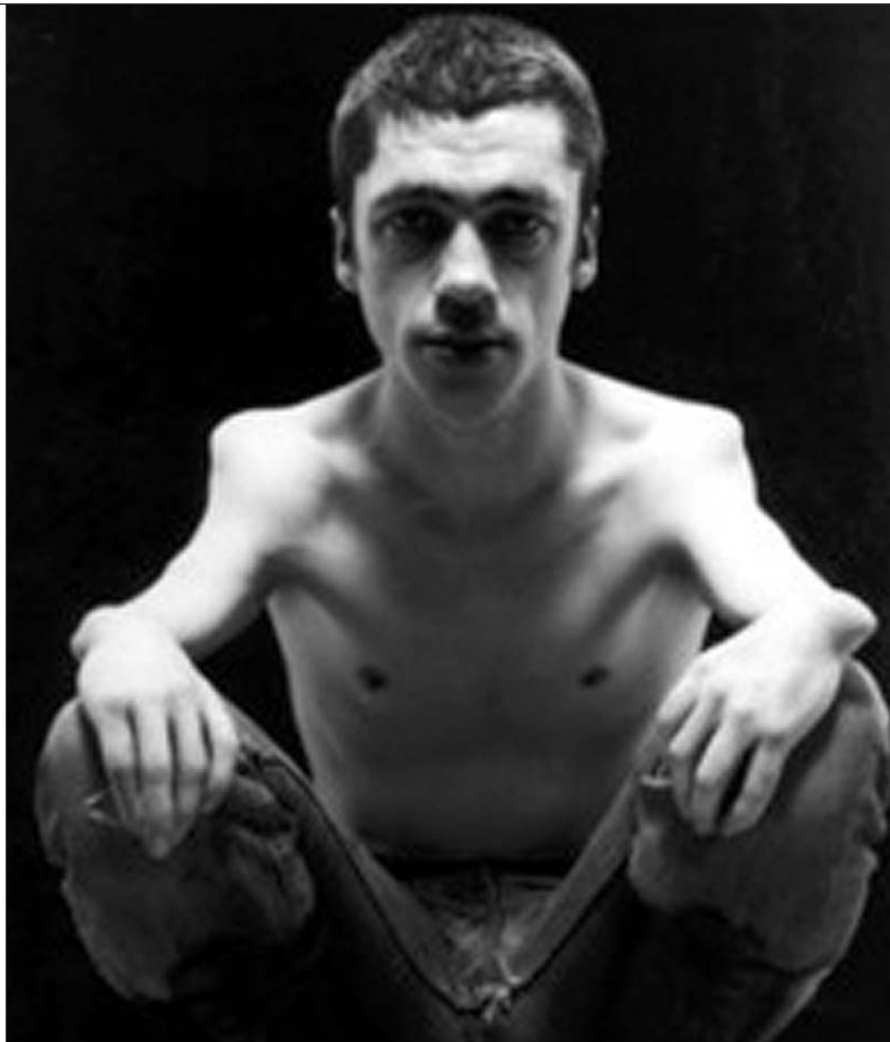
"I was born with spinal muscular atrophy, a so-called 'terminal' condition. When I was born my mother was told to take me home and enjoy me because I would be dead within the year. Well here I am at 44 defying all these doctors. I cannot lift my head from the pillow unaided and I need a ventilator to help me breathe at night. I use a powered wheelchair and have a computer on which I type with one finger. I have a high-powered and fulfilling job as the head of a major national organisation. More importantly, I am fortunate to live in a borough that provides exemplary social care: a 24-hour personal assistant enables me to have an independent life, to be a wife to my husband and a person to my family and friends."

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**Mat Fraser Actor
Musician and Performance Artist 1963-**



Mat was born with shortened arms because his mother was given the drug Thalidomide when she was pregnant with him. Mat went to mainstream school and became an actor and musician. He is perhaps best known for his TV advert for Virgin Mobile, but he has acted in many plays and TV programmes. Mat drives an automatic car and has a Black Belt in Marshall Arts.

“Non-disabled people will always think of a disability as frightening and tragic until they’ve experienced it themselves – whether that be personally or with a loved one, and then they realise it actually is not like that at all.”

D I S A B L E D

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who made a difference!

**Alison Lapper
Artist and Mother 1965-**



The artist Alison Lapper uses a variety of media including painting, photography, digital imaging and installation to explore her subject; her subject often being herself and the ways in which she is viewed by others.

Alison, who is based in the United Kingdom, was born in 1965, and studied Art, getting First Class Honours Degree, at the University of Brighton, in 1994. Alison paints using her mouth and feet. Alison has had a number of successful shows and was featured in the film *Alison's Baby*.

Alison's work questions notions of physical normality and beauty, in a society that considers her deformed because she was born without arms. She became pregnant and gave birth to her son, Parys, who is featured in her work. Now Alison will be in Trafalgar Square as a statue.

D I S A B L E D

P E O P L E

who made a difference!

Evelyn Glennie Percussionist 1966-



“Before my teen years, I was losing my hearing pretty quickly, and I was getting very, very angry. I was beginning to become an angry person because of that. And my teacher, you know, he said, “Evelyn just put your hand on the ball of the tympani, on the copper ball,” and this I did and, you know, I felt something, and so we would go on like that. And then suddenly my hands would be placed on the thin walls of the room, and he would tune the two drums to a very wide interval. And so he would say, “Which drum am I playing?” And I might say, “Oh, the lower drum.”

“And well, how do you know that?” I said, “Well, I can feel it from here to here.” And so he would play the other drum. I said, “Yes, I can tell the difference.” And I said, “I can feel that from there to there. But learning to translate sounds, she says, was not easy. I mean, higher sounds are in the higher parts of your body, and low sounds are the lower parts of your body. And so that was the start of all of this kind of truly, truly being involved in the actual sound.”

Now Glennie a great musician who plays many instruments at more than 100 concerts a year all over the world. Evelyn reads lips. In performance, she plays barefoot, and hears her own instrument and the orchestra by feeling vibrations through the floor and in her own body.

D I S A B L E D

P E O P L E

who made a difference!

**Heather Mills
Model/Campaigner 1968-**



Heather Mills is a model and is married to Paul McCartney. She lost a leg in an accident and now campaigns against Land Mines. She is shown here on American TV with her false leg.

D I S A B L E D

P E O P L E

who made a difference!

Tanni Grey-Thompson Athlete 1969-



Tanni is a top wheelchair racer, gaining fourteen Olympic medals, (nine of them Gold). Tanni has done a great deal through her sporting success to get disabled people accepted.

Born with spina bifida, Tanni tried every sport at her mainstream school in South Wales. "Eventually I found athletics and I've never looked back."

After giving birth to her baby daughter, Tanni is back training, wheeling 80 – 100 miles a week.

"If you put in the hard work you have a chance of fulfilling your dream."

D I S A B L E D

P E O P L E

who made a difference!

**Ade Adepation
Actor and Olympic Wheelchair
Basketball Player 1972-**



Ade went to the inclusive Lister Comprehensive school which he found great. As Ade contracted polio as a child, he now uses a wheelchair. He is perhaps best known for his wheelchair basketball routine on BBC TV, he is currently the presenter of The Exchange on Children's BBC TV. Ade plays wheelchair basketball for Great Britain and was a member of the team in the Sydney Olympic Games.

"If you are a disabled person you have to think the sky's the limit in what you want to do."

D I S A B L E D

P E O P L E

who made a difference!

Julie Fernandez Actor 1974-



Julie has Brittle Bones, which means she is short and uses a wheelchair and her bones break easily. As a child Julie went to a special school, auditioned straight from school and got a major part in the BBC soap 'Eldorado'. Recently Julie has been in hit comedy show 'The Office'. Julie makes films and presents TV programmes.

"I think that education is very important for everybody. There are far too many disabled people who aren't included in mainstream education for different reasons that shouldn't be occurring in 2003. Disabled people deserve to be of equal status as non-disabled people. If disabled people can get a good education, they stand a better chance of getting themselves a good job; and there's no reason why disabled people can't get a good job".

D I S A B L E D

P E O P L E

who made a difference!

The Direct Action Network 1992



DAN or the Direct Action Network is a group of disabled people who demonstrate peacefully to show the barriers disabled people face in everyday life. In this photo they are blocking the path of a bus, because they cannot get on to it.

The bus is not accessible for wheelchair users.

Due to DAN and other disabled people fighting for their rights, the Government have introduced new laws to help stop discrimination against disabled people.

D I S A B L E D

P E O P L E

who made a difference!

Heart 'n' Soul Theatre and Music Group



"An ever expanding family, where we invite you in and everyone is welcome"

Sara Stevens, Heart 'n Soul participant

Heart 'n Soul is an arts group that offers opportunities to people with learning difficulties. It was founded at the Albany Theatre in London in 1986. The people who have been here since the beginning are Winston, Stephan, Pino, Cheryl and Geoff. Now they have groups all over London.

They use music, theatre and club culture. They provide training and support, tours, workshops and performances in schools and to the public. **"I was quiet but now I speak up, I have more confidence."** Octopus Club Goer.

"I like it and being part of Heart 'n Soul is like being part of a big family who support everybody". The Council is part of the support." Lis Lye, Elected to the Heart n Soul members Council

Lisa – **"Heart 'n Soul changed my life. I even met my boyfriend at the crew and we've been together six years now. We are planning to get married and I'd like to have the wedding at the Albany. The crew can organise it!"**

Dizzy Hearts is a drama group that is part of Heart 'n Soul-

**"Dizzy Hearts spinning us round
Hear the beat, a brilliant sound
Happiness rising from the ground
Happiness rising from the ground
The ideas for shows come from us**

**Excellent ideas from Dizzy Hearts
Exciting adventures we make up
Music, a beat, beat the heart, great show."**

D I S A B L E D

P E O P L E

who made a difference!

Francesca Martinez
Actor/Comedian 1981 -



Francesca was born with cerebral palsy, which means it is difficult to control her muscles. Francesca liked acting at her mainstream school and was in the TV series Grange Hill from 1994-1998. Then she won several prizes as the best new comedian. Now she makes fun of people who think disabled people are 'funny'.

"Whenever we went to the hospital, I was angry that everyone spoke to Mum as if I wasn't there. So when one patronising doctor asked if anything funny happened to me during the night, I replied; 'I grow another pair of ears and get green spots all over my head'. He was gob smacked."

"The fastest-rising female comic in the country."
The Observer Newspaper

D I S A B L E D

P E O P L E

who made a difference!

Gareth Gates
Pop Singer 1984-



Born in Bradford, Gareth was a child model and musician playing drums, guitar and piano. Gareth, like his father before him, has a speech difficulty – he stammers. When chosen for the final of Pop Idol 2002 Gareth had great difficulty getting his words out on TV.

He was runner up, but this hasn't stopped him having two number one hits.

Gareth has been using a technique of breathing to reduce his stammering. He also sings to relax himself. This obviously helped him to develop his star quality.

“I really am living my dream. Even now I still stop and wonder if it's really happening to me – I'm really lucky.”

D I S A B L E D

P E O P L E

who made a difference!

Maresa MacKeith Student 1985-



Maresa MacKeith is an 18-year-old who has just finished at college doing her 'A' Levels . Previously she got a string of As and Bs at GCSE and A'levels. Like thousands of other teenage girls she celebrated – by going out clothes shopping with a friend. Next autumn she will start a degree in Journalism at Nottingham Trent University. Unlike most teenagers however, Maresa has had a long and difficult road to exam success. She was born with cerebral palsy and cannot write, talk or walk. Maresa uses a wheelchair and has limited control of her movements. Maresa communicates by pointing to a specially designed message board which includes all the letters of the alphabet along with common words and phrases. A facilitator helps Maresa to use the message board and interpret what she is saying. At exam time they were joined by a scribe who transcribed all Maresa's answers. When Maresa was 6 she was judged to have severe learning difficulties and sent to a special school. When Caroline, her mother discovered how to communicate with Maresa, when she was 10, it became clear how fed up she was at the school. Eventually she started at a secondary school she liked in the middle Year 9.

“At last I could learn interesting things and not be patronised.”

D I S A B L E D

P E O P L E

who made a difference!

Anthony Shubrook Ford Student 1986-



Anthony, aged 17, has cerebral palsy. Anthony and his parents have had to fight every inch of the way to ensure he gets a good education in mainstream schools and colleges. At his Primary School Camden Council was forced to install a lift and resource the school so Anthony could participate. No suitable local secondary school would take Anthony, so the family moved to Harrow where Anthony attended Whitmore High School and got his 7 GCSE's.

When Anthony wanted to attend the local Sixth Form College – St.Dominics – and study 'A' Level Geography and Computing, they refused to have him as they said he was a safety risk in his proposed stair climbing wheelchair. The case went to court and the college were forced to admit Anthony. Now a new temporary classroom has been installed on the ground floor, with all the equipment he needs, which has set an example for all colleges.

"I can now be included in a classroom and study alongside other students and have a chance to make friends."

D I S A B L E D

P E O P L E

who made a difference!

**Zahrah and her mother Preethi Manuel
with poet Benjamin Zephaniah 1988 -**



Zahrah 16 was born with cerebral palsy and has not been able to use her arms or legs independently or speak. However Zahrah and her mum, Preethi, have put up a tremendous fight to get Zahrah to attend her local mainstream primary school, which after 3 years she attended. They went to court and protested until Zahrah went to her local secondary school. This has had such an impact that it led to the Government changing the law so more disabled children can go to their local school with their friends.

**"I want to live with my mum and my
own friends in a house."**

Benjamin Zephaniah grew up in Birmingham. Benjamin has dyslexia. "He finds it difficult to cope with the word, but it's never stopped him being heard". Benjamin is a leading poet and broadcaster. He passionately campaigns for justice and against war.

**"All people are people
And as far as I can see
You're all related to me
That is why I say that
All people are equal."**

D I S A B L E D

P E O P L E

who made a difference!

Bethany Hamilton Junior Surfing Champion 1990-



Photo Michael Darden /AP

Bethany lives in Hawaii and was a junior surfing champion, when in October 2003 she was sitting by the sea, with her friend Alana, dangling her arm in the water. When suddenly a 14 foot tiger shark grabbed her by the arm and pulled her out to sea. The shark took her arm and Bethany swam towards shore and was rescued by her friends and was rushed to hospital. After only 13 weeks Bethany was back in a surfing competition minus her arm. Now a Hollywood film is being made about Bethany, but her real love remains surfing.

“The only reason that I got to shore is that God had a purpose in my losing my right arm.”

D I S A B L E D

P E O P L E

who made a difference!

Notes

D I S A B L E D

P E O P L E

who made a difference!

Notes

“If you are a disabled person you have to think the sky’s the limit in what you want to do”

**Ade Adepation
Actor and Olympic Wheelchair Basketball Player**

equal

