

Successful People with Disabilities

Information Sheet for Worksheet #2

Magic Johnson

Magic Johnson was an outstanding player in the NBA (National Basketball Association) for 12 years. Johnson retired from professional basketball after a blood test revealed that he was infected with HIV. His love for the game did not stop and he came back to play for short periods several times, including to be part of the Dream Team during the Olympics. He eventually retired for good but stayed part of basketball by being a part owner of the Los Angeles Lakers and by doing some coaching. He redirected some of his energy into creating the Magic Johnson Foundation to raise money to fund HIV and AIDS research, health services and education. It has grown to also support the social needs of ethnically diverse, urban communities. He also pursued business interests in property development, including movie theaters and shopping centers in inner-city areas when there were no investors.



Information about Magic Johnson was taken from the following sources:

<http://www.magicjohnson.com/index.php?>

http://www.nba.com/history/players/johnsonm_bio.html

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Magic_Johnson

Marlee Matlin

Marlee Matlin is an actress; performing on stage, in movies and on TV. She won an Oscar at the age of 21 for best actress in *Children of a Lesser God*. Some of her other movies include *Sweet Nothing In My Ear*, *Dead Silence*, *It's My Party*, *Hear No Evil*, *Bridge to Silence*, and *Walker*. She was cast in the TV series *West Wing* and has appeared on many other shows such as: *CSI: New York*, *My Name is Earl*, *Desperate Housewives*, *Law and Order* and *The Practice*. Marlee Matlin is deaf. She lost her hearing when she was 18 months old. Sign language is her primary language. Marlee is also a writer and has published three books: "*I'll Scream Later*", *Deaf Child Crossing*, and *Nobody's Perfect*."

Information about Marlee Matlin was taken from the following sources:

<http://www.marleematlinsite.com/index.html>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marlee_Matlin

Terence Parkin

Terence Parkin is a world class competitive swimmer. He lives in South Africa and competed for them in the 2000 Olympics in Sydney, Australia. He won a silver medal in the 200 meter race. Terence was born deaf. He uses sign language to communicate and a strobe light similar to a camera flash to signal the beginning of the race. He has participated in the Deaflympics four times and has received 29 medals. He began competitive swimming at age 14. He is also a competitive cyclist.



Information about Terence Parkin was taken from the following sources:

<http://www.southafrica.info/news/sport/swimming-parkin-221009.htm>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Terence_Parkin

<http://www.iidc.indiana.edu/cedir/kidsweb/fpwdinfo.html#tp>

UNDERSTANDING DIFFERENCES

Patricia Polacco

Patricia Polacco has written and illustrated over 50 children's books. She started writing children's books when she was 41 years old. Patricia majored in Fine Art and received her Ph.D. in Art History. Before beginning her writing and illustrating career she worked restoring ancient pieces of art for museums. She also married and is a mother of two. When Patricia was a child she struggled in school and did not learn to read until she was 14 years old after she was diagnosed with dyslexia. A teacher was able to get the additional help she needed to overcome her reading problems. Ms. Polacco has written a book about her difficulties learning how to read and how her teacher helped in a book titled *Thank You, Mr. Falker*.

Information about Patricia Polacco was taken from the following sources:

<http://www.patriciapolacco.com/>

<http://www.eduplace.com/kids/tnc/mtai/polacco.html>

Itzhak Perlman

Itzhak Perlman is world renowned violinist. He has performed with every major orchestra around the world. He was born in Tel Aviv, Israel in 1945. He first studied violin at the Academy of Music in Tel Aviv. He then studied at Juilliard in New York City. As a child he contracted polio at age four. The polio caused paralysis in his legs. He walks with crutches and when he performs he is seated. Itzhak married in 1967 and has five children. Itzhak and his wife founded the Perlman Music Program in 1995. This program provides mentoring and instruction to students ages 11 to 18, offering financial assistance for over 80% of the students.

Information about Itzhak Perlman was taken from the following sources:

<http://perlmanmusicprogram.org/>

<http://www.musicanguide.com/biographies/1608003292/Itzhak-Perlman.html>

<http://www.imgartists.com/?page=artist&id=210&c=2>

