

No, it's not a mistake or a typo, just a simple statement. Curious? Read on!

What do Albert Einstein, Amadeus Mozart, Daryl Hannah, Hank Williams, Sr. and John Cougar Mellencamp have in common? What about Gary Numan, Geri Jewell, Agatha Christie, Franklin Roosevelt, Helen Keller, Julius Caesar, and Napoleon? Not to mention 56.7 million American citizens. 56.7 million people, 19 percent of the population-1 in every 5 people have this in common. In Wyoming, 8.5 percent of the population under age 65, including: Howard Hill, Betty Jean Pearson, Carole Martin and Mary Richey, all of whom are successful Cheyenne community leaders, employees and/or business owners have it in common. Every demographic of society has members with this in common. The rich or poor, black, white, or Native American, the young, old, in between-no demographic is an exception.

It could be you that has something in common with Gilbert M. Gaul, a Pulitzer Prize winner, or Buddy Winnett, horse jockey and trainer. It could be your neighbor who has it in common with Jean Driscoll, CEO of corporate and non-profit enterprises as well as champion marathon participant. If you don't have it in common yet, you could-at any time, any given minute, with no notice and no preparation! That's how Christopher Reeves got it. What is it? Are you interested and excited to know? What is it that you could have in common with Roy Orbison or Neil Young, what is it?

56.7 million Americans and 8.5 percent of the Wyoming population under 65 have a physical or mental condition that limits movements, senses, or activities. That is what they all have in common. It is referred to as a disability. It is something that is thought to make you different, yet, if 56.7 million Americans have it in common, is it really something that makes a person different?

A disability might be something you can see-cerebral palsy, loss of limb, multiple sclerosis or paralysis for example. Or, it might not be obvious until you get to know someone, epilepsy or a mental illness can be hidden disabilities, for example. It might only mildly have an affect one day and completely debilitate the next. It takes many different shapes, forms and degrees that result in limits. However, as you can see from the brief list of people above, a disability is no reason to stop a person from living the life they want and having the success they desire. People with disabilities are just as capable of ruling the world as any other person. Every person has the Ability to contribute significant and meaningful ideas, inventions, community services and entertainment to his/her community. There should be no limits. Every dream has at least one element that can come true with work and support. The thing is, no person is truly successful without assistance. You can bet that many CEOs, politicians and entertainers have family, friends, and co-workers to help them make it through the day. Some even have paid supports called personal assistants, just like some people with disabilities do. The point is, we all are capable of contributing and we all need help. There are no exceptions.

Back to the gibberish above, that is what a person with a reading disability might see. And like you, they may feel confusion, curiosity, frustration or helplessness. What the title states is that March is Disability Awareness Month. Magic City Enterprises, Mountain Regional Services, Inc, the Cheyenne Mayor's Council for People with Disabilities and many other stakeholders invite you to learn about the people around you and how disability affects, enhancing as well as limiting lives. You could be surprised how

much you have in common and can share with a person with a developmental disability or brain injury. A little support can go a long way, reach out, everyone benefits!

March 26 is the Annual Disability Awareness Walk at Frontier Mall, registration starting at 9:00 a.m. Please join us in spreading the word that a disability is not what makes a person special, every person is special. There will be T-shirts, live entertainment, food and refreshments, an Easter basket raffle and fun for the family! See you there.

Carol Busbee

Mayor's Council for People with Disabilities

Mission

The MCPD's mission is to serve as a network, catalyst, and referral organization that will enhance equality and self-advocacy for people regardless of their disability.

For more information, view the [Mayor's Council for People with Disabilities Website](http://www.cheyennesmcpd.org) at www.cheyennesmcpd.org

