

Café Track has been shortlisted for the UK's Largest Diversity Awards

Café Track from Northamptonshire has been shortlisted for the Community Award for Disability at the National Diversity Awards 2020.

A record breaking 64,000 people nominated this year alone and the results are finally in for the National Diversity Awards (NDA), with an astonishing 126 nominees being recognised for their various achievements nationwide.

Community organisations and role models from across the UK will head to the breathtaking Liverpool Anglican Cathedral on 26th February to witness the countries 2020 winners being crowned the best of British diversity.

Amongst those being honoured are charities, campaigners and activists, all of whom work tirelessly to combat injustice and discrimination in very different ways.

Tom Cliffe from Café Track shortlisted for the Community Award for Disability said;

"We were delighted to have been nominated for the award and to be shortlisted is truly incredible. It is great recognition for the hard work which all of the TeamTRACK members have put in, and I am proud of each and every one of them"

"Just 16% of autistic adults nationally are in full time paid employment, and this is something which we think cannot continue. We want Northamptonshire to lead the way, and to get national recognition is fantastic. The individuals whom we have supported into employment are thriving in their workplace, with one recently named runner up in the Employee of the Year category at their business.

"Whilst times are incredibly challenging at the moment, during the past few months we have continued to support people not only to access employment, but also to help reduce social isolation and provide personalised support for individuals. To be in a room with so many inspirational people will be fantastic, and we look forward to attending the event."

Here is a selection of quotes which were left for us in the original nomination stage, where people had to give their reasons for nominating us

"Cafe track has been a life saver to so many by listening, supporting and finding them jobs. The team work together to put the people they support first."

"Cafe track have provided a much needed service for young Autistic people. It's become a place of safety, purpose and hope. Amazing work by the team.

"My Grandson has Aspergers and is a volunteer at this lovely cafe. It has given him confidence to meet people and they are also assisting him to get paid employment. It is a great place to meet friends and family. We had an afternoon tea here a couple of months ago and it was amazing"

Information on the National Diversity Awards

Nielsen, Direct Line Group & The Open University have recently been announced as sponsors of the pioneering awards that have paid tribute to over 800 grass root groups and diversity champions since its inception. ITV News are also listed amongst a host of companies showcasing their support to recognising diverse talent, providing a platform to our unsung heroes. Rachel Corp, Acting Editor, ITV News said: “We are pleased that ITV News will once again be supporting the National Diversity Awards. ITV News remains committed to telling the stories of those, who through their work and dedication to helping others have made a difference; enhancing equality, diversity and inclusion in our society. We look forward to introducing the 2020 nominees to our viewers across the regions and nation.”

Designed to highlight the country's most inspirational and selfless people, the NDA's continue to gain endorsements from high profile figures such as Sir Lenny Henry CBE and Graham Norton. Activist Katie Piper, Presenters Alex Brooker & Ade Adepitan MBE and Emmerdale star Ash Palmisciano were on this year's judging panel, dedicating their time to help choose the highly anticipated shortlist.

Actress and comedian Sally Phillips will take centre stage on 26th February as the official host of this year's ceremony. Sally said, “This year has presented historic challenges for everyone but with them we have also seen extraordinary and heroic achievements of people fighting to keep some of our most vulnerable communities supported. We need a spotlight on our communities, need, human rights and care for those on the outside like never before. We need to meet, exchange ideas and resources and pool skills more urgently than ever. I am ever-grateful for the NDA network and couldn't be prouder to be returning to their tremendous awards as host for a second time. See you there?”

Previous winners include actor Warwick Davis, men's mental health charity Andys Man Club and reformed breast cancer survivor Codilia Gapare.

Paul Sesay, Founder and CEO of the National Diversity Awards added, “During difficult and challenging times, it is now more important than ever to recognise our countries true role models. The nation has embraced the diversity of our country and exceeded every other year by submitting a record breaking 64,000 nominations and votes. Let me reiterate that creating this shortlist was no easy task. The profound impact made by all our nominees is astonishing, and I feel personally encouraged to know that so many lives are being changed for the better due to the many causes being championed by all of you.

After weeks of deliberating and thousands of heartfelt testimonials later, I am delighted to finally present to you the best of British Diversity.

Congratulations to all of our shortlisted nominees, it is an honour to recognise your fearlessness, resilience and humanitarian efforts with the rest of the world. Let's continue the fight for justice, unity and equality for all”.

To view a full list of nominees please visit www.nationaldiversityawards.co.uk/shortlist