

2022 Employee of the Year Nominee, Jon McGinley

Vision, leadership, and passion best describe Jon McGinley. Jon has lovingly called the City of Burbank home for the last 42 years. One can truly see Jon's passion for the community in the way he approaches his work and the thoughtful interactions with the public.

Jon has an enduring commitment to ensure all young people have equal access to programs, activities, and services that advance their overall health and quality of life. This past year, Jon was the driving force behind the re-launch of the City's Mobile Recreation Vehicle Program formerly known as Kid's at Play. Jon identified an unmet recreational need for many families and youth within the City, particularly for those who reside in park poor neighborhoods. To successfully launch Park N' Play, Jon developed partnerships with outside agencies to support the program. His efforts include securing funding to revitalize the existing vehicle, retrofitting the interior for storage, and the purchase of program equipment. In addition, Jon has developed partnerships that will aid in identifying and prioritizing communities that are most in need.

Jon's dream for Youth Sports in Burbank is to provide all kids the opportunity to play organized sports despite mental, physical, or economic barriers—helping young athletes understand the value of hard work, dedication, teamwork, a winning spirit, and losing with dignity. In collaboration with Tiffany Nelson (Coach and Walk of Fame inductee) Jon was instrumental in providing the opportunity for children with special needs to donate a jersey and play a full season of Hap Minor/Ponytail Softball. Thus, the beginning of Piper's Pals.

Jon's vision does not end there. He fosters diversity and inclusion on all levels. He understands that many of our young athletes are yearning for opportunities to help them grow and compete at higher levels. Consequently, Jon continues to foster a partnership between the Parks and Recreation Department and the Los Angeles Clippers to provide high-energy youth camps. He has also advanced the partnership with Breakthrough Sports to provide year-round basketball instruction, including Litter Hooper's for kids 3-6 years old, and a Basketball Training Academy. Further, through his efforts the Sports Office offered 20 weeklong summer Sports camps, serving over 840 youth, and featuring former professional athletes in the summer of 2022.

Additionally, Jon looks for every opportunity to celebrate the contributions of female athletes in Youth Sports. For many years the annual Civitan Jamboree Day awards only recognized outstanding male athletes, but through his leadership, the Parks and Recreation Department awarded a young female athlete with the first annual Barbara Rownd Memorial trophy at Civitan Jamboree Day in 2019. In 2022, Jon also took the opportunity to highlight the 50-year anniversary of Title IX by introducing the Linda Murphy Pioneer Perpetual Award that will be given to a female player in the Ponytail Softball league, again advancing the support and recognition of young female athletes in Burbank.

Jon is a true leader and role model on many levels. His service and commitment to this community is immeasurable.