

Biographical Information for Craig J. Phillips MRC, BA



My name is Craig J. Phillips. I sustained an open skull fracture and a traumatic brain injury in an automobile accident when I was 10 years old in 1967. I remained in a coma for 3 weeks with right frontal lobe damage, a severe brain bruise with brain stem involvement. Waking from the coma, I felt like I had a bad dream, but the reality became apparent. I also fractured my left femur and remained in traction for 6-7 weeks to set the femur. I was then placed in a full body cast (Spica) for 5-6 months. After being taken out of the Spica cast, I learned how to walk, talk, read, write and speak in complete sentences. I also underwent 2 EEG's and a battery of cognitive and psycho social testing.

The results were shared with my parents, but not with me. Once my external wounds healed, the impact of my traumatic brain injury went invisible and was never factored into my struggle. I was mainstreamed into the 6th grade. I graduated on time with my high school class and then went on to college, although the testing done in 1968 showed that I would probably not succeed beyond high school academically. It took me 10 years to obtain my undergraduate degree (2 universities and one college) and 3 ½ years to obtain my graduate degree (2 graduate schools). I had a long history of getting and losing jobs.

I applied for SSDI 3 times and was a client of the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation in Florida and North Carolina. After my 2nd DVR evaluation my vocational rehab counselor told me that I was unemployable. Shortly after being told that I was unemployable by DVR I was approved to begin receiving SSDI at the end of 1998. My undergraduate degree is in Theology. My graduate degree is in Rehabilitation Counseling. Although I had diligently applied myself both academically and vocationally, I felt like someone all dressed up with nowhere to go. Nevertheless, I did not give on the process.

I had a desire to use what I had been seeking to do all my life. On February 6, 2007 I created Second Chance to Live. Since that time, I have written **2085 articles**, **12 eBooks**, **450 video presentations**, **20 slide show presentations** and **41 inspirational posters**, all focusing on a holistic recovery process. Since June 2020 and to date I have given **115 presentations** through Zoom. To see these presentations and locations, click on this link: [Public Speaking; Craig J. Phillips MRC, BA Second Chance to Live](#). To access my resource page, please click on this link: [Resources for Ongoing Brain Injury Recovery](#).

“Everyone is a genius, but if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing it is stupid.” Albert Einstein

Among Places Presented

Among the places where I have spoken: Cleveland Clinic, Medstar National Rehabilitation Hospital, Penn Presbyterian Hospital, Overland Park Rehabilitation Hospital, Adventist Rehabilitation Hospital, Magee Rehabilitation Hospital, Encompass Rehabilitation Hospital, Brooks Rehabilitation Hospital, Carolinas Rehab, Colorado Department of Education, University of North Dakota, University of North Carolina — Chapel Hill, Harvard University, University of California at Berkley, Columbia University, and Synapse National

Brain Injury Association of America National Speakers Bureau

Added 9/29/2022

[Second Chance to Live added to Brain Injury of America's Speakers Bureau](#)

22 Presentations Focusing on Holistic Brain Injury Recovery

[Empowering Current and Future Leaders in Brain Injury Recovery and Rehabilitation to Empower Self-advocacy Presentation](#)

[Finding Purpose after Brain Injury and Stroke Presentation](#)

[Acceptance and Creating our New Normal after Brain Injury and Stroke Presentation](#)

[Living with a Brain Injury and Finding Freedom from feeling "Stuck" in Time and "Spinning" our Wheels Presentation](#)

[Neuroplasticity, Setting Goals and Creating Hope After Brain Injury and Stroke Presentation](#)

[Believing in Ourselves through Self-Advocacy — A Guide to Owning Our Power after Brain Injury and Stroke Presentation](#)

[Hope and the Progression of Living our Best Life after Brain Injury Presentation](#)

[Living with a Brain Injury and the Messages We Tell Ourselves Presentation](#)

[Finding the Freedom from Feeling Stuck after a Brain Injury Presentation](#)

[Brain Injury and The Power of "I CAN" in an Ongoing Brain Injury Recovery Process Zoom Presentation](#)

[Cultivating Healthy Relationships after Brain Injury and Stroke Presentation](#)

[Brain Injury, Stress, Anxiety, Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years Zoom Presentation](#)

[The Progression of Living My Best Life after My Brain Injury Presentation](#)

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12 Ways to Enhance Our Lives, Well-Beings and Relationships after a Brain Injury and Stroke Presentation

Making Our Lives Magical One Day at a Time after Brain Injury and Stroke Presentation

Living with a Brain Injury, an Invisible Disability and Change after Brain Injury and Stroke Presentation

Living with a Brain Injury and an Invisible Disability — How are You Defining Success? Presentation

Instead, We can Create our Own Genius after Brain Injury and Stroke Presentation

Grieving the Guilt and Shame of a Traumatic Brain Injury and Stroke Presentation

Brain Injury — Why Do I Feel so Misunderstood and Shunned? Presentation

Living with a Brain Injury — I Can Not Do Everything, But Still I Can Do Something Presentation

Comprehensive History of Second Chance to Live — Answering the Call that never Came Presentation

Second Chance to Live and Succeeding Beyond my Special Needs from 10 Years of Age Presentation

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