

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 **2148 articles, 12 eBooks, 452 video presentations, 20 slide show presentations** and **27 zoom presentations** all focusing on a holistic recovery process. Since **June 2020** and to date I have given **127 presentations** through Zoom, with upcoming opportunities to be of service. To see these presentations and locations, click on this link. [Public Speaking](#). To access my resource page, please click on this link: [Resources for Ongoing Brain Injury Recovery](#).

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 Berkeley, Columbia University, Synapse National, Associations and at various Conferences.

During the past 17 years Second Chance to Live has touched lives in these countries:

United States, Brazil, Canada, United Kingdom, Ireland, Russia, China, Hong Kong, India, France, Spain, Ukraine, Finland, Romania, Poland, Croatia, Indonesia, Belgium, Sweden, Germany, Greece, Philippines, Japan, Vietnam, Serbia, Slovenia, Portugal, Morocco, Egypt, Singapore, Saudi Arabia, Myanmar (Burma), Pakistan, Switzerland, Thailand, Israel, Turkey, Australia, New Zealand, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Netherlands, Ghana and South Africa.

National and International Organizations Using Second Chance to Live as a Resource

Note: I am available to give these presentations to your group or organization

To contact me to schedule: secondchancetolive1@yahoo.com

Designed and Created to Inspire Hope

Discussion Topics for Support Groups

You Are Not Crazy. You have an Invisible Disability Discussion Topic

Yes, I am Disabled, but Don't Count Me Out because...! Discussion Topic

Learning to Accept Ourselves when Other People Can't or Won't Discussion Topic

Getting Comfortable in Our "Own Skin" Living with a Brain Injury and an Invisible Disability Discussion Topic

Navigating Life's Railroad Switch — Finding Purpose and Passion After Brain Injury Discussion Topic

Don't Let Anyone tell You, You Aren't Enough Because...You are Smart, Intuitive and Courageous Discussion Topic

Living and Thriving Beyond Brain Injury Awareness to Create a Good Life for Ourselves Discussion Topic

Creating Practical Hope in Our Lives through the Power of Identification Discussion Topic

Nine Habits to Benefit from Using the Principle of Neuroplasticity Discussion Topic

Full Presentations for Keynote Presentations

[Finding Purpose and not Giving Up after Brain Injury](#)

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

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

[Facing Adversity and Having Options When Life Does Not Make Sense](#)

[12 Ways to Enhance Our Lives, Well-Beings and Relationships after a Brain Injury](#)

[Getting Comfortable in Our “Own Skin” Living with a Brain Injury and an Invisible Disability](#)

[Some Things to Consider so We Don’t Stay Stuck Living with a Brain Injury Zoom Presentation](#)

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

[Don’t Let Anyone tell You, You Aren’t Enough Because...You are Smart, Intuitive and Courageous](#)

[Celebrating Goals and Dreams in the Now, Overcoming Obstacles, Odds and Impacting Generations Presentation](#)

[Finding Freedom from Feeling Alone, Isolated, Alienated, Intimidated and Diminished Living with a Brain injury and an Invisible Disability](#)

[Brain Injury and The Power of “I CAN” in an Ongoing Brain Injury Recovery Process](#)

[Living and Thriving Beyond Brain Injury Awareness to Create a Good Life for Ourselves](#)

Presentations Sharing my Personal Journey and Process

[Second Chance to Live and Succeeding Beyond my Special Needs from 10 Years of Age](#)

[Comprehensive History of Second Chance to Live — Answering the Call that never Came](#)

Presentations Empowering Groups and Organizations

[Living with Long Covid-19 Invisible Disability — Hope, Encouragement and Support Zoom](#)

[Empowering Current and Future Professionals in Brain Injury Recovery and Rehabilitation Summary](#)

Invitation to Join our Community

To join both our **Second Chance to Live Community** and our **Building Your Life after Traumatic Brain Injury Community**, click on this link and ask to join: [Community](#)