

Richard Specht

Rich's presentations combine his 16 years of science teaching experience with his family's story of overcoming the loss of his 22 month old son, Rees. Recounting the formation of The ReesSpecht Life Foundation, which has distributed almost 500,000 kindness cards worldwide, he inspires your students to look inward for their power to change the world; one little piece at a time.



Topics Include

- Bullying Prevention • Power of Perspective
- Overcoming Life's Obstacles • Simple act of Kindness
- Having an empathetic mindset • The Power of Choice
- Parent Workshops • The Science of Kindness

-Elementary, Middle and High School programs are Available.

...Encouraging others to perform acts of kindness through the distribution of "ReesSpecht Life" pay it forward cards.



Biography

On his thirteenth birthday, Rich was admitted to the hospital with a life-threatening condition called benign idiopathic Intracranial Hypertension. His bout with the disease nearly killed him and robbed him of the vision in his right eye. Realizing how short life could be, Rich decided to make the most of his time and made a pact with himself to make every day count.

For almost 25 years he stood by that code until life tested him again with the tragic loss of his only son, Richard Edwin-Ehmer (Rees) Specht at just 22 months old. Just when he was ready to give in to despair, a kind stranger came to him and reminded him of the power of simple acts of kindness. The acts of kindness that he and his family received after Rees' passing inspired them to "pay forward" that kindness.

Rich and his wife started "The ReesSpecht Life Foundation" in memory of their son. Its goal was simple: Remind people of the power of human kindness; which the foundation does in the form of scholarships for High School seniors, and the worldwide distribution of almost four hundred thousand ReesSpecht Life "pay it forward" cards.

The work of Rich and the ReesSpecht Life Foundation has been featured by The Today Show, Fox and Friends, CBS News and many other news outlets and publications. In 2014, Rich wrote the award winning children's book "A Little Rees Specht Cultivates Kindness", which is slated to become an animated television series that teaches children that our kind acts are like seeds that help to cultivate kindness in others. The book and television adaptations of A Little Rees Specht Cultivates Kindness represents the culmination of Rich's goal to help make this world a little better, one Rees' piece at a time.

Testimonials

"Your presentation brought tears to my eyes but joy to my heart. It was truly a privilege to have heard your story... Thank you for bringing true hope back into my heart." Caterina P. (Suffolk Community College)

"Among the best, if not the best and most powerful presentations I have seen in this auditorium in 30 years of teaching [at I.S. 281]" – Mark Hayden (Assistant Principal I.S. 281 Brooklyn)

"We are still "cultivating kindness" at East Quogue Elementary! We all ordered shirts, books and extra cards. We can't wait to help increase the number of Rees' Pieces! Your heartfelt assembly and words really touched us. Thank you!" – Jackie Martin (Teacher East Quogue Elementary)

"It was an awesome presentation- heartbreaking, but you've really turned tragedy into something amazing! I can tell you were once a teacher, as you definitely kept their attention." – Dr. Laura Inscoe (Wakefield High School)

"I think this was by far the best cultural arts program we have ever had! Students were engaged entire time. They all walked away with a great feeling of how each one of them could plant a seed of kindness throughout their everyday life. As a teacher I observed them cultivating it the remainder of the day. Loved it. Thank you for continuing to plant Reese's seeds around the world." – Barbara Haining (Mills Pond Elementary School) – Susan Recce, ASAH Assistant Director