

Social Service and Facilitation Skills that appear in my writing style:

- Ability to be **empathic yet empowering** when working with clients directly and/or support group participants
- Impart **genuinerespect to individuals** by seeing past their struggles and acknowledging their potential
- **Skilled at firmly steering conversations to client's goals** and away from dysfunctional or manipulative behaviors

Writer Platform and Goals:

- To make use of my well-establishedexperiences in social services for the good of others
- In the area of mental illnessor 'special needs', offer my deep-rooted belief of the value of all persons
- To offer challenges that will benefit readers while bringing a positive influence totheir life's efforts& growth.

Public Media and Group Facilitation and Educational Workshops

One Time Appearances:

- [12th International Conference on Emergency Medicine](#). Interviewed as parents of special needs children who have navigated the Emergency Rooms of many hospitals over the years of ER visits for our children's' seizures, etc.
- Doctors Gloria & Heidi Horsely's Open to Hope television show Episode 35: Grieving Disability and Death <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N2H3-ZcPW5c>

2006 - 2015: The Compassionate Friends Group Facilitator: Oversaw the monthly Marin Co. Chapter of this international organization for bereaved parents. Met the challenge of creating a welcoming and warm and reasonably upbeat environment to an otherwise tragic reason for meeting. An average of 20 revolving attendees over 9 years

2008 – 2011: ARCH National Respite Conference Workshop Presenter: Presented at national workshops both solo and in collaboration with the international "Care.com". Engaging audiences in class participation with humor and useful information on such subjects as "Reasons, Relationship & Respect of Respite"and "Taking Respite out of the Box"

Employment networking and platform building with hundreds of clients and colleagues

2007 - 2016TheLaChris Connection: Executive Director:Founded and maintained for this non-profit org which served families of children with disabilities with an emphasis on family health. Assistedparents in "connecting" with care providers and resources. Attended an average of 3monthly multi-agency collaboratives meetings attended by 5-20 social service and non-profit personnel with whom I networked regularly

2000-2016: Gilead House Women's TransitionalHome- Mentor and life skills coach:As mentor to assigned clients, guided them in goal setting and connections with resources for their housing, employment, health and practical needs. Created warm yet firm relations, providing assistance and encouragement toward independence. As Life Skills Coach, conducted interactive, group classes on such subjects as healthy, effective communication skills.

1980-1983:Amazing Grace Women's Shelter-Administrator / Counselor:Live-in counselor for this grass roots women's shelter in coordination with referrals from other county resources such as Abused Women's Services, teen transitional homes, correctional systems and psych services with whom I networked regularly. A turnover of over 150 clients over a 3.5 year period.

Ministry:

- 7+ Years of creating Bible study outlines and facilitating local church's weekly women's lunch
- 6 years of facilitating and presenting teachings at annual weekend women's retreat
- Marriage mediations for troubled couples, providing both parties with equal respect & voice and effective tools for healing
- Hosted church sponsored, home group Bible, book and media studies

Education and Personal Experience:

A.S. degree majoring in Accounting; Indian Valley Colleges

B.S. degree *studies* majoring in Psychology *begunat* Simpson College (senior year pending)

Parent to 3 delightful children, 2 of which were born with cerebral palsy and other special needs (the later 2 now deceased)