

Phillip Garrett, Every Child's Hope
National Safe Place Network Lifetime Achievement Award
Video Transcript

Hi, my name is Phil Garrett and I work at Every Child's Hope in the Transitional Living Program as an intake coordinator. I've been with this agency for 42 years, my entire career. When I started out in college trying to figure out what I was going to do, I settled on teaching and studied elementary teaching. When I got into my last semester of coursework I went into the classroom and I did not do well.

So I thought, "What am I going to do? I'm not ready to do this. I've got to figure this out." I felt like I still wanted to be in a helping profession – my mother and father were really inspirational and I watched how they served in the community. I saw an ad in the paper for a childcare worker at what was then the Evangelical Children's Home. I got that job and worked with 15-16 year old boys in cottages of ten for about three years and I've been here ever since.

I want to really thank the National Safe Place Network for recognizing me. It means so much to be recognized by peers, by those who really know what this work is like. It's also a reminder to me of all the people I've worked with over the years in the community and the program here and how I cannot do it without their support. I hope that one day they can get the same kind of recognition.

I'd like to also thank my wife of 40 years – she should get a lifetime achievement award for that as well, for dealing with me and what I bring home. She's also been at this agency for just about that long. It's been really great to have her support. I couldn't have done it without her.

Thanks again for the award. I really appreciate it.