**Derek Clark Bio**

Motivational Speaker Derek Clark’s life is one of resilience and redemption. As a child, he suffered unthinkable child abuse, abandonment and emotional distress before being turned over to a psychiatric hospital at age five. His 13 years in the San Francisco Bay area foster care system reflected an early life of humiliation, aggression, emotional distress, overwhelming anxiety and being wrongfully labeled. Eventually, with the help of foster parents, a fantastic social worker and mentors, he defied the artificial limitations imposed upon him. Derek knows first-hand how to cope with adversity and overcoming hardship. His past has never held him back from accomplishing what he set his heart and mind to.

Derek is an inspiring motivational speaker/trainer. His popular keynotes are "The Power of Resilience and Redemption: From Brutal Trauma to Triumph" and "You Cannot Think Negative About a Child and Expect a Positive Outcome". He is the author of seven books, including Disable the Label: Never Limit the Potential of a Child, Never Limit Your Life and the I Will Never Give Up book series. Derek’s true-life trials and personal triumphs have inspired organizations worldwide with his message of resilience, hope, courage, unwavering perseverance, and redemption. He recently received the International Foster Care Award through SOS Children's Village, an organization located in 134 countries helping and protecting children.

Derek has also been a featured expert on CNN Headline News, The Steve Harvey TV Show, The Ricki Lake TV Show and other TV shows around the world. Recently, Derek has become a viral video sensation for his “Rapping Dad” videos, which have more than 50 million social media views. You may keep up with his exciting journey by following him on Facebook at [https://www.facebook.com/MotivationalSpeakerInspires](https://nam02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2FMotivationalSpeakerInspires&data=04%7C01%7Ccflemming%40teammns.org%7C1a59b8fad05b4808196e08da166a9e73%7Cb86427373aed45a4b6a54aee079fa569%7C1%7C0%7C637846944429371367%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=6GkAyzpTsPJTURSXCEMFnC3vP%2FWf8uhiV5VdJANt6o8%3D&reserved=0) or his viral video Rapping Dad page at [www.Facebook.com/RappingDad](https://nam02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2FRappingDad&data=04%7C01%7Ccflemming%40teammns.org%7C1a59b8fad05b4808196e08da166a9e73%7Cb86427373aed45a4b6a54aee079fa569%7C1%7C0%7C637846944429371367%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=nZBivF8CEE8QaeFfht2o0bxRv5CWzLaA9kv6Bkww0tA%3D&reserved=0). You can find out more information about Clark at <https://www.IWillNeverGiveUp.com>.

**Dr. John DeGarmo Bio**

**Dr. John DeGarmo is an international expert in parenting and foster care, while also serving as a** [**TEDx Talk**](https://nam02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.youtube.com%2Fwatch%3Fv%3D0JQYUp6sEbY&data=04%7C01%7Ccflemming%40teammns.org%7C1a59b8fad05b4808196e08da166a9e73%7Cb86427373aed45a4b6a54aee079fa569%7C1%7C0%7C637846944429371367%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=ypiFmzkP1GGp95eLjenHD%2FgXhfmBag4h3KhIon7AfbU%3D&reserved=0) **presenter. Dr. DeGarmo is the founder and director of** [**The Foster Care Institute**](https://nam02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.drjohndegarmofostercare.com%2F&data=04%7C01%7Ccflemming%40teammns.org%7C1a59b8fad05b4808196e08da166a9e73%7Cb86427373aed45a4b6a54aee079fa569%7C1%7C0%7C637846944429371367%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=cJagDW1QMMbto96CT%2FrYDyxuw5WgR6Z%2B6ETlDOACp50%3D&reserved=0)**. He and his wife have had more than 60 children come through their home. He is an international consultant to schools, legal firms and foster care agencies, as well as an empowerment and transformational speaker and trainer for schools, child welfare, businesses and non-profit organizations.**

**He is the author of several books, including** [**The Little Book of Foster Care Wisdom**](https://nam02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.drjohndegarmofostercare.com%2Fstore%2Fp126%2FThe_Little_Book_of_Foster_Care_Wisdom%253A_365_Days_of_Inspiration_and_Encouragement_for_Foster_Care_Families.html&data=04%7C01%7Ccflemming%40teammns.org%7C1a59b8fad05b4808196e08da166a9e73%7Cb86427373aed45a4b6a54aee079fa569%7C1%7C0%7C637846944429371367%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=GS0fv1oH99AaOhxVzVBEcX%2Bfolg2n4Crmi0duQbdl%2FA%3D&reserved=0)**, and he writes for several publications. Dr. DeGarmo has appeared on** [**CNN HLN**](https://nam02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.youtube.com%2Fwatch%3Ftime_continue%3D1%26v%3DF_cFeZ00U0U&data=04%7C01%7Ccflemming%40teammns.org%7C1a59b8fad05b4808196e08da166a9e73%7Cb86427373aed45a4b6a54aee079fa569%7C1%7C0%7C637846944429371367%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=92quhiyoqmGcGke7BBoweI8IY7ezoNk7Agej6CDK8TA%3D&reserved=0)**, Good Morning America, and NBC, FOX, CBS, and PBS stations across the nation. He and his wife have received many awards, including the Good Morning America Ultimate Hero Award. He can be contacted at drjohndegarmo@gmail, through his Facebook page, Dr. John DeGarmo, or at** [**The Foster Care Institute**](https://nam02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.drjohndegarmofostercare.com%2F&data=04%7C01%7Ccflemming%40teammns.org%7C1a59b8fad05b4808196e08da166a9e73%7Cb86427373aed45a4b6a54aee079fa569%7C1%7C0%7C637846944429371367%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=Q97qspgj9BN1zsEFM1beili2wVzi2c80GpQthfGdOd4%3D&reserved=0)**.**