

## CSH Speak Up! Advocate Kirk Shares His Story

### Video Transcript

Audio	Visual
<p><b>Kirk, Speak Up! Advocate:</b> Hello, my name is Kirk Allen. I'm currently residing in New Direction. My story is, I was a commercial truck driver. I drove over 48 states - driving 10 hours a day, 3500 miles a week. Over time, I got injured. Once I got injured, I went to the doctor. The doctor told me I was too young for the surgery, so I continued to drive.</p>	<p>[On Screen Text: Kirk, Community Advocate]</p> <p>Kirk speaks to the camera in the courtyard of a building. Tables with chairs are seen behind him.</p>
<p><b>Kirk:</b> I became an owner-operator. During that time, my injury got worse. Being an owner-operator, you have to - pretty much, you know - pay for everything. Your maintenance and everything. I didn't have medical insurance, so I ended up at the VA hospital they did the surgery for me. Once I was done with the surgery, I became an outpatient. Being an outpatient, they want you to, you know, move on. They have other people waiting for the beds.</p>	<p>Kirk speaks to the camera in the courtyard of a building.</p>
<p><b>Kirk:</b> So my only option was Skid Row. Now, being a vet and in that state of mind, and in a wheelchair - I was really you know stressed. Like, there's no way I was going to Skid Row in a wheelchair - that's my point. They had no other options, so eventually they got me another case worker.</p>	<p>Kirk speaks to the camera in the courtyard of a building.</p>
<p><b>Kirk:</b> The caseworker, you know, looked for me and they found me housing - transitional housing - for disabled vets in Bell California. Once I stayed in Bell California, I ended up in New Directions which I'm very happy with. You know they really helped me. I have a brand new place. I'm trying to recover right now. I am recovering. But I like to thank CSH because I'm an advocate for them. I'm a voice for them. And I want to help anybody I can help. And thankful for CSH and, my life is good.</p>	<p>Kirk speaks to the camera in the courtyard of a building.</p>

