

# LONGO

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motivational speaker for all ages. Longo's mission is to help people make their dreams a reality.

At a recent speaking engagement at the Boys and Girls Club in Lakes



Water ski jumper Hank Longo encourages the students to sign a contact at the end of his "Soar to Success" workbook that concludes with, "I am going to make my dreams come true and not give up until I do."

Wales, Longo mesmerized nearly 50 kids who would normally be squirming in their seats eager to get back to play during their summer break from school.

"It takes a lot of steel

nerves," Longo said, comparing the classroom experience to setting a world stunt record. "You have to be patient, take a deep breath and get everything under control so we can go through the lessons." While obtaining his teaching certificate, he learned how to manage a classroom and teach through the Florida Department of Education program: "Demonstrating the New Florida Educator Accomplished Practices." "I'm trying to be the best that I can and understanding the students so you know how to present the information."

Prepared with a video of "That's Incredible," handouts, toys and candy to keep the kids captivated, Longo builds a brick wall on a display board that has the steps involved in making a dream come true.

"It's always a dream coming true because I work on it every day," Longo tells the kids. "The day your dream doesn't become a reality is the day you quit working on it."

Brick by brick, Longo explains why each is essential to the wall's

solid foundation. "By completing each lesson you will define and create a blueprint of what your need to do to make your dream come true. What's important is that you complete each lesson and don't give up."

Longo encourages the students to sign a contact at the end of the workbook that concludes with, "I am going to make my dreams come true and not give up until I do."

Longo's first lesson is "vision." "If you can see the dream happening, then you can make it come true."

Lesson two is "passion." "You have to love what you do," said Longo. "If you're not waking up everyday living your passion you need to regroup and try to make that happen."

The third brick is "education." "Learn what books, classes, videos and research you need to educate yourself on how to accomplish your dream," he said.

Longo's next bricks are: know what direction you're headed, identify all the elements in detail needed to make it



PHOTO BY CASSIE JACOBY

Hank Longo's passion for education and helping kids inspired Hank to write his book "Soar and Make Your Dreams Come True," approved by the Polk County, Florida School Board. As a motivational speaker Longo's mission and passion is to help people make their dreams a reality.

happen, create a game plan and a strategy to provide a map to follow, establish good habits, set goals, be organized, disciplined, dedicated, patient, focused with a positive attitude, persistence and belief in yourself.

The final brick in lesson 16 concludes the workshop with a somber note.

"Have fun because life is short," Longo said, as he drives the message home by revealing what happened on the worst day of his life, when his best friend, Gary Duhmel, the boat driver in "That's Incredible," drowned in his arms after a horrific boating accident.

"Life isn't a given and you need to live every day, every day. You need to treat people special as if it's your last day. Procrastination is the destroyer of dreams, just do it."

Longo, who has written numerous children's books, began his fairytale writing process by being a storyteller. Before he ever wrote a book, he created the whole story, in memory, by telling it to his friends. Longo's storytelling was encouraged by his mother, Gladys, who was an elementary

school teacher. He would go to his mother's school and tell her class his stories, "The Kingdom of Enybuddy" and "Farmer Dilly and the Potato Who Wanted to be a Tree," which led to other teachers inviting him to their class to tell his stories.

Longo's first educational course was "The

Yummy Cookie Company and The Bicycle Dream." He started a Minnesota State Licensed Cookie Company with fifth grade students at Sacred Heart Elementary School in Robbinsdale, Minn. Commissioned to write a book on economics for kids by The Minneapolis Star and Tribune, Longo's

"Gravity Makes the Earth Spin, but Money Makes the World Go 'Round" taught kids the basics of economics using the newspapers.

Working with Professional Wrestling Super Star Curt "Mr. Perfect" Hennig inspired Longo to write his wrestling comic book,

"Golden Boy Headlock vs The Villain Vito Varmint," and a book on manners and morals for kids, "The Golden Boy Headlock and Tiger How to be Cool Guide and Survival Tips."

"My dream is to make it into the military," said 16-year-old Alexis Nieto, an ROTC student, who helped keep the room full of kids under control and signed a contract to follow through on his goals.

"I wish I had Hank's book when I was younger," said George Hardy, Boys and Girls Club unit director, who's pursuing his master's degree. "These kids who are 11 to 15 now have a good head start and a chance to be successful in life."

"Now that I made this commitment to do this, more people have supported me and are excited about what I'm doing and are willing to help me because they

say there's such a need for this," Longo said. "Not only do I believe in myself, but other people believe in me and support me in helping other people make their dreams a reality. That's what makes it so exciting and rewarding. It's all a win, win, win. A win for me, my sponsors, the kids and adults. It's all positive and moving forward."

Longo's workbooks and "SOAR" program were provided for free to the kids at the Boys and Girls Club in Winter Haven, Lake Wales and Haines City through the support sponsorship of A Ward Design; New Electric; Arabellas Italian Ristorante; A&E Auto Body; Everett Whitehead & Son; Richard & Valla Treuman; Six/Ten LLC; Rick's Bar-B-Q; Debbie Fletcher, Fletcher Printing; Bonnie Liss, Phoenix Graphics; Kim Burgoon, Visual Images; and Dieusuel Berto, Tiger's World Martial Arts.

Watch Longo's world record stunt on "That's Incredible" by visiting [www.hanklongo.com](http://www.hanklongo.com) or call 863-604-3860 to schedule a speaking engagement, purchase books or for information.



Hank Longo's passion for education and helping kids inspired him to write his book, "Soar to Success," that is approved by the Polk County School District. As a motivational speaker for all ages, Longo's mission is to help people make their dreams a reality.



"I wish I had Hank's book when I was younger," said George Hardy, Boys and Girls Club unit director, with water ski jumper Hank Longo (left). "These kids who are 11 to 15 now have a good head start and a chance to be successful in life."



At a recent speaking engagement at the Boys and Girls Club in Lakes Wales, water ski jumper Longo mesmerized nearly 50 kids when he revealed how to make dreams come true in his "Soar to Success" workshop.



Brick by brick, water ski jump Hank Long explains to Boys and Girls Club members why each brick is essential to the wall's solid foundation. "By completing each lesson you will define and create a blueprint of what your need to do to make your dream come true. What's important is that you complete each lesson and don't give up."



"Have fun because life is short," said water ski jumper Hank Long as he revealed what happened on the worst day of his life, when his best friend, Gary Duhmel, the boat driver in "That's Incredible," drowned in his arms after a boating accident. "Life isn't a given and you need to live every day, every day. You need to treat people special as if it's your last day. Procrastination is the destroyer of dreams, just do it."



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