



**The Dan Eley
Foundation**
Transforming young lives

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Dan Eley as a speaker

“Turning adversity into opportunity”

Paralysed charity founder
& London 2012 Olympic Torchbearer

Dan Eley is the founder of charity which supports disadvantaged youngsters internationally, a London 2012 Olympic Torchbearer, recipient of a UN ‘happy hero’ medal and an independent school governor.

Dan was working as a volunteer helping street children in some of most dangerous cities in Central America before a freak accident left him paralysed from the shoulders down. In 2010 Dan broke his neck in a diving accident in the Amazon jungle and came close to death. He was resuscitated four times before doctors advised his family to “let him go”, believing his paralysis would prohibit any quality of life.

In his talks entitled "Turning adversity into opportunity" Dan tells his audience to be the change you want to see in the world and explains how we can utilise adverse circumstances to discover our strengths and true potential and achieve happiness and fulfilment. His talks have invoked responses such as: “enraptured” and "you left me with a completely different attitude on life".

After his accident Dan spent one year in hospital facing up to the immense challenges of being so severely paralysed but he never gave up. He created The Dan Eley Foundation, a charity that equips underprivileged youngsters with the necessary skills to lift themselves out of hardship. Already Dan's charity has supported over 250 young people in both Colombia and the UK.

In 2012 his spirit and determination were rewarded when he carried the Olympic Torch through his home town, a moment he describes as the ‘greatest day of his life’.

References

“Everyone was very inspired ... what an extraordinary person you are...”

Rt. Hon Jeremy Hunt MP

"I've worked at JLA for over 15 years, working here we are fortunate to meet all sorts fascinating speakers on a regular basis. I just wanted to write to let you know I've rarely been so moved, and felt so privileged as to hear your speech today. I thought your personal story and how you have dealt with everything is nothing short of incredible, and your charity work is truly inspiring."

Jeremy Frewer, JLA speaking agency

"Dan delivers a very powerful and incisive talk which is equally moving and joyful. Indeed his is a personal story to remind us that the human spirit is indomitable. From his unique perspective Dan explains brilliantly how we can all do so much more than just cope with adversity; in fact with the right mind-set we can actually thrive on difficulties and make a huge positive difference to others. To describe Dan as a great motivational speaker fails to do him justice; he is so much more than that: friendly, funny, warm-hearted and above all truly inspirational."

Paul Craven, London Speaker Bureau & TED speaker

"I can confidently say that yours was the most appreciated and successful address in my time, and one that will be long remembered."

Hugh Pile, Chairman of Governors Godalming College

"Thank you so much for attending our certificate evening last night as our special guest. Many apologies for the failure to get your PowerPoint presentation loaded up but in the event your "off the cuff" address was a masterpiece perhaps all more powerful for its simplicity. Your depth of character and triumph over adversity was an inspiration for everyone. Staff, parents and ex-students felt both humbled and uplifted by what you have to say".

Andrew Smith, Headteacher Rodborough School

