



Chris Gardner

**Businessman, Author, Entrepreneur,
Philanthropist and Inspiration for the Movie *The Pursuit of Happyness***

Chris Gardner is the author of critically acclaimed “Pursuit of Happyness”, Entrepreneur, Single Parent, Speaker and Philanthropist.

Chris's biography

About Chris Gardner

[Inspirational and motivational speaker](#) Chris Gardner draws on his extraordinary life story to share the lessons he has learned for [overcoming adversity](#) and improving performance. This life story became an autobiography, *The Pursuit of Happyness*, a New York Times and Washington Post #1 bestseller as well as an Academy Award nominated movie starring Will Smith.

Gardner comes from the hardest of backgrounds, with poverty, domestic violence and sexual abuse being just some of the challenges he has had to overcome. After a spell in the Navy he worked as a medical research associate; when his son Christopher Jr. was born he began to apply for training programs at brokerages despite having no experience. When Christopher’s mother left him Gardner fought to keep his son, determined that he would not grow up without a father as Gardner himself had done.

Despite earning a place on the Dean Witter Reynolds training programme Gardner became homeless, as he could not afford rent from his training salary. Nonetheless he managed to gain a place at Bear Stearns & Co where he was a top earner, and then founded his own brokerage firm Gardner Rich with just \$10,000 of start-up capital. He sold his share in this firm in a multimillion-dollar deal and is currently CEO of Christopher Gardner International Holdings.

Gardner’s experience of homelessness and being a single parent has led him to involvement with many philanthropic organizations, including the National Followed Initiative, the National Education Association Foundation and the International Rescue Committee. He has won many awards for his work, including

the NAACP Image Award for the book and movie versions of his autobiography, the Los Angeles Commission on Assaults Against Women Humanitarian Award and The Continental Africa Chamber's Friends of Africa Award.

His experience in both the [business](#) and philanthropic worlds have made him much in demand, with appearances on CNN, CNBC, Fox News, Oprah and The View to name but a few. In print media he has been featured in People, USA Today, The New York Times, Fortune, Entrepreneur, Reader's Digest, Chicago Tribune, San Francisco Chronicle and The New York Post, amongst many others.

Chris's talks

- **Life, Legacy, and The Pursuit Of Happyness.**

Chris Gardner's inspiring keynote speech focuses on messages of perseverance and personal responsibility in times of crisis. Chris communicates these themes through the story of his own triumph over adversity while homeless on the streets of San Francisco with his son, to his subsequent success as stock broker, CEO, single father, and author of the best-selling autobiography, The Pursuit of Happyness and Associate Producer of the film starring Will Smith in the role of Chris Gardner.

In his speech, Chris Gardner discusses:

- What he has learned about beating the odds and overcoming obstacles.
- The application of an entrepreneurial approach to remaking your life and fulfilling your own "Pursuit of Happyness."
- Why passion is a prerequisite for success.
- The necessity of a clear plan to realize your dreams, with the characteristics Chris Gardner calls the "5 C's": Clear, Concise, Compelling, Committed, Consistent.
- Why recessions are the best time to initiate a new business or career path.
- The importance of fatherhood and insights on balancing family and career commitments.

Speakers Associates Ltd | +44 (0)1628 636600 | info@speakersassociates.com | www.speakersassociates.com