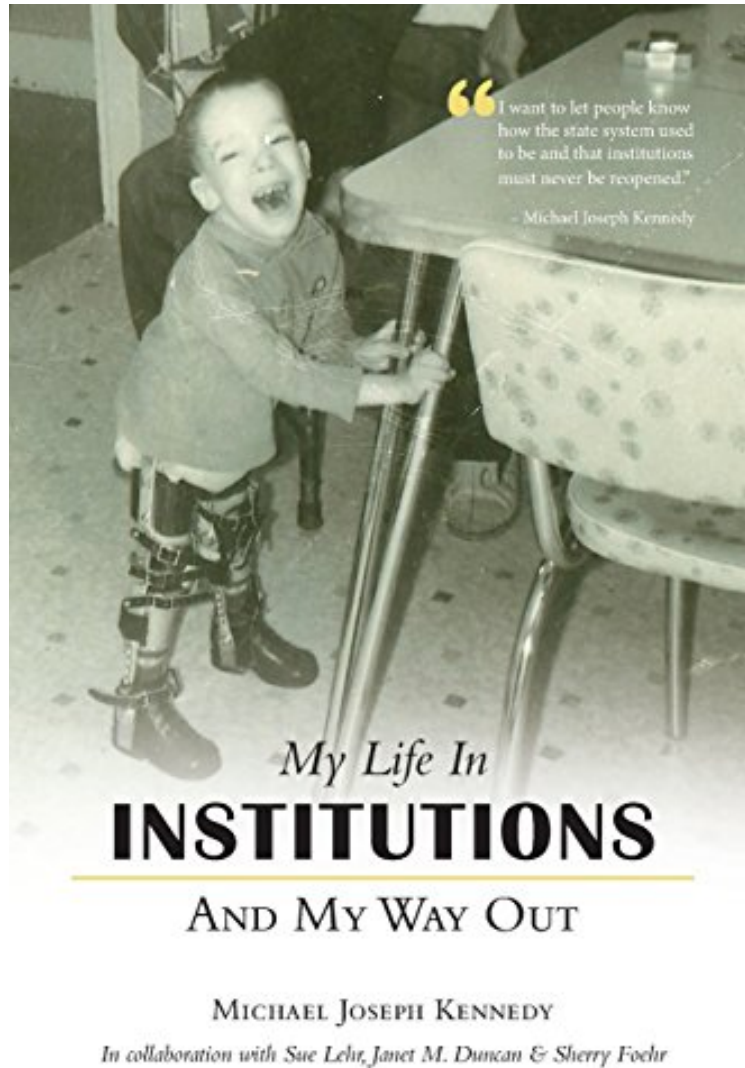


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My Life in Institutions and My Way Out

Michael Joseph Kennedy

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Michael Joseph Kennedy : My Life in Institutions and My Way Out before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised My Life in Institutions and My Way Out:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. An Inspirational must read.By CustomerIt was a wonderfully written book about his life. Some parts were emotionally difficult to read due to his abuse when in institutions, but ultimately anyone working in the human services field NEEDS to read this. When you hear stories of Willowbrook and Rome it is enough to turn your stomach. But to hear actual accounts from a former resident is mindblowing. It is a blessing to

so many that Mike has been such a strong advocate! He is truly the voice of many! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Outstanding! By Tamara L. Beardsley This book, complete with all the sad and disappointing truths that those with disabilities and their families have had to endure, is an excellent tool to educate others to the inequity that has and does exist in our country. I applaud the sincere, and personal honesty, that Michael, his family, and others have shared to help readers truly understand the purpose of sharing these experiences. Many might find this appalling and too sad to continue reading. Well that's tough!.. Society does need to know what has and does go on in this country to certain individuals! We can't continue to ignore or believe that these things haven't existed. We can't change what we do not see or know about! Share this book, discuss this book, and use this book as a teaching tool. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. for those who wish to learn about what life was like for people who had to go through institutional living By Lorna Barton This book is riveting just for the information that is in it. However, at times it was difficult to follow what was being said, and sometimes the reader doesn't know who is stating the facts, the author, or the helper. It is very informative, however, for those who wish to learn about what life was like for people who had to go through institutional living.

This is the story of Michael Kennedy's life. Born in 1960 with significant disabilities, he describes his early experiences living in three different institutions for the mentally retarded and how he had to become his own advocate if he was going to survive. He soon realized that, unlike most of the others in institutions, he could make his voice heard. He had to speak up to help himself and other individuals with developmental disabilities to learn about their rights, and how to prevent themselves from becoming trapped forever within complicated state bureaucracies. After moving out of the last institution into various types of supported living settings, Michael describes how he found new friendships, went to school, got a "real" job, and began to aspire to having full control of his own life. "I want to let people know how the state system used to be and that institutions must never be reopened." This is a book about hard work, resilience, and hope. It is an extraordinary life story, but told by an ordinary man with a clear mission to help others like himself.