

THOMAS W. ILAND B.S., CPA

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I'm a self-advocate with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). I was diagnosed at age 13, and have worked hard to achieve many of my goals: driving, having a girlfriend, living in my own apartment and going to college. After graduating from California State University, Northridge in 2008, I became a Certified Public Accountant. I've worked for many different companies including Calavo Growers, Princess Cruises, Harbor Freight Tools, and The Walt Disney Company.

I recently decided to leave corporate America to pursue my real dream: a full-time professional career talking, teaching and training about autism. My goal is to present unique insights about the autism journey with heart, humor and optimism. I want to share a fresh perspective about the transition to adult life with a new voice, and help others by explaining essential things I've learned through experience. I have just published my first book, *Come to Life! Your Guide to Self-Discovery*, which helps youth with autism and learning differences shape their futures and the Spanish version, *iVen a la Vida!* Both books have won numerous awards, including Foreward Book Awards Book of the Year, National Parenting Products Award, Mom's Choice Award, and 5 International Latino Book Awards.

Presentations

I am a seasoned presenter with more than 15 years of experience! I'm available for presentations, trainings and professional engagements for all kinds of groups, organizations and audiences. Please contact me to inquire about fees and available dates.

One of my most popular presentations is "Come to Life," in which I discuss the process of self-discovery and the meaning of my mantra: Know Yourself. Love Yourself. Be Yourself. I can customize presentations for any group. Some additional topics include:

- How to Tell Your Child About Their Disability
- Growing Up with Autism: What I've Learned Along the Way
- Making Work Work for Individuals with ASD
- Navigating College: Insider Secrets for Community College or University Life
- Romance, Relationships and ASD: Lessons from the Heart

Education and Professional Development

California State University, Northridge Bachelor of Science in Accountancy (2008)

Certified Public Accountant California License #110191 (2010)

Toastmaster's International Competent Communicator & Competent Leader (2016)

OICALI Strategies in Action Autism Certification (2016)

Speaking and Training Experience (select examples)

Wisconsin Inclusion Institute	Opening Keynote Presentation	July 2018	Wausau WI
Autism Action Partnership	Experience Autism and BE SAFE	June, 2018	Omaha NE
University of New Mexico	Conference Closing Keynote	April, 2018	Albuquerque NM
Ft. Bragg Special Operations	Autism Awareness, Come to Life	March, 2018	Ft. Bragg NC
Uniquely Abled Academy	Peer coaching/Work Preparation	March-May 2018	Santa Clarita CA
William S. Hart Union High School District	Training on Autism and Inclusion	2008-present	Santa Clarita, CA
Los Angeles Police Department	CIT Autism Awareness Training	2006-present	Los Angeles, CA
Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department	Autism Awareness Training	1999-present	Santa Clarita, CA

Accounting Work Experience (select examples)

Staff Accountant, Calavo Growers Entered journal entries for monthly closing reports	2015	Santa Paula, CA
Finance Coordinator, Tetra Tech Managed project support for US and international tax, treasury & accounts departments	2012 –2015	Pasadena, CA
Finance Temp, Various Companies Served financial at Harbor Freight, Princess Cruises, Universal Music and others	2010 –2012	Los Angeles, CA
Lead Corporate Property Tax Intern, The Walt Disney Company Generated property tax returns for Disney-owned companies nationwide	2008 –2010	Glendale, CA

Honors and Volunteer Activities

Santa Clarita Valley Junior Chamber International "Forty Under 40" Award Recipient (2012)

Santa Clarita Valley Junior Chamber International, Treasurer (2013 - 2015)

Santa Clarita Valley Safe Rides, Supervisor and Fundraiser (2002 – Present)

Social Media

Website: www.Thomasiland.com Facebook: www.Facebook.com/Thomasiland Twitter: @ThomasILAND