

DON WADEWITZ

Speaker and Hall of Fame Broadcaster

Empowering People to Live Life to the Fullest by Building Resilience



Don is a survivor. A survivor of childhood trauma and pain. He was abused by a babysitter at a young age, grew up in a drug house, had a parent in prison, and had life-ending thoughts that he nearly carried through on.

It took until his mid-20's to start to come to terms with his childhood. Once he did, Don was able to find purpose after purpose in life. Don paid his own way through a private college education, taking a decade to achieve his goal. This led him into broadcasting and eventually into the training world where he helps people live life to the fullest. It's a mantra that came to him after receiving a phone call that a friend died from pancreatic cancer just moments before he began to broadcast a game.

Besides founding AwesomeU, Don was the senior leadership trainer at an organization with about 7,000 employees and also led a team of a dozen trainers. Don has a degree in broadcasting from Marquette University and a Master's in Training and Human Resource Development from UW-Stout.

In 2019, he was inducted into the American Football Association Hall of Fame in the Media Category during a ceremony at the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio. The experience led to his keynote talk, *From Trauma and Pain to Hall of Fame - Building Resilience to Overcome the Odds*.

As a sports broadcaster, Don knows that statistics can be strong predictors of future performance. Some players defy the odds and transcend those statistics. A Pew Charitable Trusts study showed that a child with a mother that spent time in prison only has a 2% chance of graduating college and is three times more likely to be incarcerated themselves. So, how did Don change those expected outcomes?

Don is willing to share how he was able to overcome these setbacks with conference attendees, employees, or students. They will feel inspired by his story and learn how they can live life to the fullest.


Key takeaways include:

- Learn five strategies to be more resilient
- Understand how to change your mindset about adversity
- Learn behavioral and mental strategies to improve your self-compassion

"More than experience or training, resilience in the face of stressful situations and rapid changes determines whether you ultimately succeed or fail in the workplace."

American Management Association



 (414) 367-6531

 don@awesomeu.org

 awesomeu.org