

My name is Juan “Johnny” Morales. I was born in King City and have lived and grew up in the Salinas since the age of eleven. I attended El Sausal Middle School and Alisal High School where I developed many friendships. I have four brothers, two sisters and I am the third of a family of seven.

Prior to my disability I worked in a variety of jobs within the Salinas area including in the agriculture industry. In 1997, at the age of 23, I became quadriplegic. From 2012-2016, I resided in a nursing home in the Salinas area where I learned how to first advocate for myself. With the assistance of Central Coast Center for Independent Living (CCCIL), I was able to find housing, care givers, transportation, and learn how to integrating back into the community as a wheel chair user.

After many years of assistance and support from Central Coast Center for Independent Living, I was invited to become part of their Board. Since my inception in 2017, I help review quarterly numbers of services and give advice on how to best serve the community with disabilities to help increase CCCIL’s qualitative numbers.

I continue to live independent and support advisory committees and collaborative that serve the community with disabilities.