



*My View*

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## HAPPY THANKSGIVING

If you are like me, Thanksgiving is a time when you are grateful for many things in your personal life including family and friends.

At this time of year, I am also grateful for all the people in my "TIP Life". Many of you have become friends. All of you do your part to make TIP the best darn crisis intervention program in the nation.

I often describe my journey in TIP as one "continuous thanksgiving". Day in day out...year in year out...people have stepped up to provide TIP with opportunities for growth; to help with challenges; to volunteer their time and to contribute their resources and talents. I don't think a day has gone by when I haven't said to myself about someone in TIP: "*WOW, thank God for \_\_\_\_\_*"

These "contributors" have usually provided their help and gifts quietly without fanfare or expectation of recognition. Some have come and gone quickly after making their contribution. Others have been involved in TIP for a long time. One thing is for sure: the TIP organization today is the accumulation of the gifts and contributions of thousands of people.

Who are these contributors? They are people past and present (YOU!) who are.....

- TIP Volunteers who provide the service we promise to provide the community. The "doers".
- The families of TIP Volunteers without whose support we wouldn't have TIP Volunteers.
- Emergency responders who call us. Without them we would be a group of people with good intentions with nothing to do.
- Police and Fire Chiefs who are invaluable partners.
- Champions who are leaders in the community who take TIP under their wings and provide us with credibility and opportunities.
- Great Encouragers who are TIP cheerleaders and who tell us on a regular basis that we are doing good work.
- TIP Leaders who have the almost impossible leadership challenge of leading citizen volunteers into "battle" with few resources.
- TIP Board members who have the huge responsibility of guiding and overseeing our activities.
- Donors who give us the money to do what we do.
- Our clients who allow us the privilege of entering their lives at a very vulnerable time.

I call all of those I mention above members of the TIP TEAM. Most members of this team are not visible and they stay quietly in the background ready to step in when

needed. But without the contributions of each of our team members, our TIP Affiliates would collapse. When I go through the list of our team members from TIP Volunteers to Donors and ask myself... *"Which group could we live without?"* ...my answer is *"No one. All are essential."*

Over the years I've held my breath on many occasions wondering: *"will anyone volunteer for TIP?"*; *"will responders call us?"*; *"will donors give us money?"*; *"will clients accept us?"* Thankfully, the answer has always been and continues to be YES!

You are one of those people who have said YES to TIP in one or more ways. Thank you!

Wayne would like to hear your thoughts.

Email him at [Tipincceo@aol.com](mailto:Tipincceo@aol.com)