

# TIP Profile

## 10 Minutes with a TIP Volunteer

(mostly serious questions and a few just for fun)



**Volunteer:** Barbara Goehring

**Affiliate:** TIP of NW Florida, Inc. [www.tip-ser.org](http://www.tip-ser.org)

**Years volunteering with TIP:** 4 years

Barbara, why do you choose to volunteer with TIP?

"I choose to volunteer with TIP because I am a retired Social Worker and Counselor and want to use my retirement years to help others who are hurting."

What are some of your favorite things about volunteering with TIP?

"I have always had an interest in death and dying, emergencies, directions and helping others. TIP combines all of these and I find it an honor to be asked to help people on possibly the worst day of their lives. I enjoy interacting with the first responders and getting to know the other volunteers as well."

What do your family and friends say about your volunteering?

"Everyone says they could never be a TIP volunteer as it seems too difficult for them. They are all very supportive and interested in what I am doing."

Can you tell us about leadership roles you have/had in TIP?

"Several years ago, I developed our weekly update emails to keep the volunteers informed of the calls going on during the week. It was created to help the volunteers feel a part of the team and to know that we are active even if they are not going out on calls."

"I am currently the volunteer retention coordinator and we have come up with many ideas to help retain volunteers. The program currently under development is the mentoring program."

"I enjoy developing programs and forms to make them work. I want to support the leadership of our local affiliate because they work so hard and are all volunteers. We have no paid staff."

Can you take us behind the scenes? Tell us about an experience you had while volunteering that made you realize you were making a difference.

"On one particular call, the mother of a deceased handicapped 20 year old was very distraught and with family all around, she seemed to only want to hold MY hand and talk to me. Perhaps her family couldn't understand her sadness at the passing of a severely handicapped child, but to her it was a tragedy. I really felt she needed support and was not getting it from others. I will never forget her grip on my hand for quite a long period of time. She seemed extremely thankful that I was there to allow her to express her grief openly."

What do you do when you are not volunteering?

"I enjoy attending my grandchildren's activities (5 of them locally) and babysitting when needed. I am involved in feeding the homeless several times a month and am active in choir and Bible studies. Recently I have been traveling and sight-seeing quite a bit. I love to read and watch old movies on TV.

If you could have one super power, what would you want it to be?

"To heal others of disease, depression and misery."

What is one thing you don't know how to do, but you wish you did?

"I wish I had a PhD in biological research and been active in searching for a cure for some disease. I think I have the personality to focus on details and the determination not to quit until I find an answer."

What is your ultimate vacation?

My ultimate vacation would be to be able to go to my dad's old hunting camp in the remote mountains of PA with family like we did annually years ago. No phones, TV, electronic reception or running water! The perfect time is during June when the Mountain Laurel are

in full bloom in PA. The weather then is perfect - about 70-75 degrees. We loved to play family games late into the night and laugh and laugh and laugh. However, since my dad died two years ago, we do not have access to go there anymore."

Barbara, do you have a favorite quote? What is it?

"Yes. People will NOT always remember what you say or do, but they WILL remember how you made them feel."

Thanks Barbara, we enjoyed our 10 minutes with you. Keep up the good work and thanks for being a TIP volunteer.