



Wayne Dier

Celebrating

There were over 200 in attendance and their pride at having survived and thrived over 17 years was obvious. The celebration got me thinking about celebrating, and I've come to the following conclusion — we don't celebrate enough. I think we have (understandably) a tendency toward crisis management, i.e. focusing on those things that are going wrong or that need "fixing." I think there is also a tendency to put celebrating off until we have something "big" to celebrate. Portland/Vancouver could have waited to celebrate when they turned 20 . . . or 25. But, to their credit, they didn't.

It's particularly important for TIP programs to celebrate regularly because of the potentially depressing work that we do. I believe we need to focus on the good things that occur so that we are able to deal with the daily tragedies we confront.

Here are some of the benefits a TIP Affiliate can expect from making celebrating a priority...

- Celebrating fuels pride among volunteers and staff. Volunteers need a sense of pride in the TIP organization to stay involved.
- Celebrating involves community members and TIP Champions, and renews their commitment to TIP.
- Celebrating is fun, and we need fun in our work lives.
- Celebrating is essential to team building.
- Celebrating provides positive memories which become important parts of an Affiliate's history.

So, let's celebrate . . . awards, birthdays, victories, etc. These celebrations don't always need to be "big productions" with lots of people. They may involve small groups of people celebrating the successful completion of a project or even two (2) people celebrating meeting a difficult challenge.

I'd love to hear about (and even be invited to) your celebrations.

Wayne would like to hear your thoughts.
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