



My View

EVERYDAY IS CHRISTMAS

The phrase "*Everyday is Christmas*" summarizes my experience as a TIP Leader over the last 30 + years. I started TIP with the idea that volunteers would be our crisis responders, and I as the leader would do everything else to operate the organization. I didn't dream of asking volunteers to help with the administrative and fundraising aspects of TIP...after all, they were "just" volunteers!

How wrong I was on two counts. First, I soon realized I couldn't do it all. I had a full time job in addition to leading TIP. Second, I discovered that volunteers were willing and able to do more than respond to TIP calls. They were willing and able to help me with all aspects of TIP including administration, fundraising, marketing, and training.

And so it's been for over 30 years...volunteers bearing gifts of time, talent, resources, and contacts. Yes, "*Everyday is Christmas*" for me and all TIP Leaders.

Because volunteers in TIP are not "just volunteers" we are able to accomplish a whole lot with very little. Think about what we do nationally...we provide 24/7/365 crisis intervention services to 200 + police agencies, fire departments and hospitals across the country. We do this through 15 non profit affiliates which do what nonprofits need to do...fundraise, tend to administrative details, recruit and train volunteers and emergency responders and conduct public relations activities.

And who does all of this? A large paid staff...right? Wrong! Nationwide we have only 24 paid staff, most of whom are part time. The rest of the work is done by volunteers functioning as unpaid staff.

So it's not an exaggeration to say that TIP is a volunteer driven organization from top to bottom. In other words, we are a "grassroots" organization. I for one wouldn't have it any other way.

So as we approach Christmas, I want to express how grateful I am to all of our volunteers who gave gifts of their time and talent to TIP throughout the year and who made everyday

seem like Christmas. I also appreciate TIP Leaders who encouraged, accepted and appreciated the gifts from volunteers.

Merry Christmas!

Wayne would like to hear your thoughts.
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