

TIP Profile

10 Minutes with a TIP Volunteer

(mostly serious questions and a few just for fun)



Volunteer: Freddie Charles

Affiliate: TIP of Orange County www.tiporangecounty.org

Time volunteering with TIP: 15 years

Freddie, why do you choose to volunteer with TIP?

"I look back on my husband and I sitting in the surgery waiting room during our 14 yr old son's emergency brain surgery and having no one there to advocate for us. 15 years later after moving to Orange County I read about TIP in a local newspaper and called Wayne that same day. I knew TIP was what I wanted to do. I do not want others to live through a bad situation without the help they need. Our son is well and has a beautiful family."

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

"I love helping our clients and I love helping the first responders. They all deserve what TIP has to offer."

What do your family/friends say about your volunteering?

"My family and friends understand the importance of what I do. But, they all say the same thing, "I could never do what you do."

Describe any TIP leadership roles you have had. What do you like about serving in a leadership role?

"The one role that I really enjoy is "debriefing" the volunteers after they have been on a call."

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

It was early in the day at Christmas time. I was called to UCI ER. A postal worker, on his way to work, tangled with a 14 wheeler on the 55. He was driving a tiny car. I spent time with his wife at his side before he went into surgery. His face was not recognizable by his wife. His wedding ring she recognized. The wife asked the surgeon if he would say a prayer over her husband which he gladly did. I spent all day and into the night with the family. The man lived through the surgery. In May, five months after the wreck, I received the family's Christmas Letter with a May date, giving all the blessings the family had received over the past months. And an invitation to come and meet the postal worker at a meeting of Women of Faith in Mission Viejo. I went to this meeting and was happily introduced to the man who was tall, slender and completely whole. You could never tell he had been in such a mangled wreck."

What do you do when you are not volunteering?

"I love to travel, garden, bird watch, try new restaurants and entertain."

If you could have two front row seats to any event, what would that event be?

"A Josh Groban concert."

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

Play the piano."

If you were to be remembered for one thing, what would you want it to be?

"That I followed my heart and not my brain."

When you were a kid, what did you want to be when you grew

up?

"A Missionary"

Freddie, if you could give somebody one piece of advice, what would it be?

"To open an IRA or Roth IRA when you first start earning a paycheck and add to it each month automatically. Start today, if that first paycheck was earned long ago.

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