



My View

Happy New Year

Over the last week, I have wished many people in my life a Happy New Year. I want to take this opportunity to wish all members of the TIP Community a Happy New Year as well. "Happy" is a pretty general term without specific meaning.

I will consider 2010 a Happy "TIP" New Year if . . .

- No TIP volunteer or TIP leader is hurt.
- TIP leaders and volunteers who are currently struggling with illnesses make a full recovery.
- TIP Affiliates continue to weather the financial storm, and donors increasingly find TIP one of their favorite charities.
- Our newest TIP Affiliate...TIP of Northern Nevada.... becomes more and more entrenched in its community.
- TIP leaders are able to manage the stresses and strains of their difficult jobs and at the end of the year are able to say that they are personally and professionally fulfilled.
- All TIP members have a deep sense of the difference we are making in both individual lives and in the communities we serve.
- TIP volunteers and leaders have learned lessons about helping and leading, and they feel smarter and more competent than they were in 2009.
- Residents in our communities continue to find TIP a worthwhile place to volunteer.
- TIP leaders leave the 2010 Annual Meeting with lots of ideas about how to improve their Affiliates.
- Our Affiliates continue to innovate and to find ways to "do it better."
- TIP Trainers and trainees report that the revised Training Academy and materials are a big hit.
- A few communities in the country seriously begin working with TIP National to start TIP Affiliates.

-TIP volunteers continue to stretch and to step into leadership positions in their Affiliates.

- Community leaders continue to support TIP, and new TIP Champions are added to the ranks of those who advocate for our organization.

I know this seems like a long 2010 wish list. But, much of what is on my list is a continuation of what we are already doing. What we do already is not easy, and if we continue to do it in the high quality way TIP is known for, that in itself will be an achievement. However, I'm very confident we will be a better, smarter and stronger organization at the end of 2010. After all, innovation and the desire to improve the way we do business are in our blood.

At the end of every year, for the last 25 years, I have looked back at the previous year and marveled that we were able to, as Chef Emeril Lagasse says, "kick it up a notch." I have all the confidence in the world that in 2010 will be another year of innovation and that we will look back at this time next year and say "we did good." Happy New Year!

Wayne would like to hear your thoughts.
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