



10 Minutes with Two TIP Volunteers

(mostly serious questions and a few just for fun)

Mark and Deb Dillon are husband and wife and both volunteer with TIP of Arizona, Inc. <http://www.TIPofAZ.org> Deb and Mark began volunteering a little more than two years ago. "We had never heard of TIP before moving to Prescott, but when we saw an ad for volunteers, it sounded like a great way to get involved with our new home town and do something useful" says Mark.

Deb says she "feels it is important to participate in our community. This is one way in which I can be of service." She tells us "I spent my career as a principal at an alternative high school working with kids who experienced frequent crises in their lives and I felt that experience would help me in my TIP work."

As many TIP volunteers know, friends and family often say things to Deb and Mark like "I don't know how you can do that" and "I could never do that". Deb also shares that their adult children "seem especially proud of the work we do."

When asked what some of their favorite things about volunteering with TIP are, Mark answers "Meeting so many great people: Our clients, EMS folks and our fellow volunteers." Deb agrees and says she also "loves the feeling she gets from knowing she has made a real difference for someone."

Mark has also taken on a leadership role in TIP as a Team Dispatcher. "I've enjoyed seeing the whole process from a different perspective and helping our volunteers

find the resources they need to help clients. I've also been privileged to speak to numerous service clubs and other groups about TIP. It's been hugely rewarding to tell the story of what we all do for the community."

Deb and Mark are proud of their work with TIP of Arizona and were both honored to be featured on the TIP National site and happy to answer some additional questions about their experiences with TIP and their life.



Mark Dillon

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

When a popular high school teacher had a heart attack in front of his class, and subsequently died, several of us were called to the school to help students, faculty and parents get through the next few days. It was challenging, but so rewarding to help the school, especially those students, work through their shock, fears and grief and begin to face a new future.

What do you do when you are not volunteering?

As a retiree, I have time for adult classes, social and discussion



Deb Dillon

Deb can you tell us about an experience you had while volunteering that made you realize you were making a difference?

I had a call where a four year old boy had been in the cab of a pickup with his mother when she was shot and killed. I spent four hours with him while the agency tried to decide on placement. I know I made a difference, because when I prepared to leave, the boy asked if he could go home with me, though there were several relatives who were requesting to take him.

What do you do when you are not volunteering?

At home, I love to read and garden. I

groups, golf, reading and just puttering around the house and working in the yard.

Can you tell us one extreme sport you might like to try?

I had my "adrenaline adventures" from ages 25 to 55 as a ski patroller, skydiving instructor, sheriff's deputy, mountain hiker and pilot.

They taught me a lot about confronting my own fears and helping others deal with their anxieties. Now I'm happy to keep both feet on the ground.

What era would you go to if you had a time machine?

The future - maybe 20, 50 and 100 years from now. I'm sure I would be amazed by the changes and the things that haven't changed.

Do you have a favorite quote?

Alexander Pope wrote: "Man, like the generous vine, supported lives; The strength he gains is from the embrace he gives." I think that perfectly describes what TIP volunteers give - and get- from their service.

Okay Mark, one last question ~ What makes you laugh?

My own mistakes. It does no good to beat yourself up.

Thanks Mark, we enjoyed our 10 minutes with you and appreciate that you chose to volunteer with TIP.

also take and teach a variety of lifelong learning classes and am very active in our local American Association of University Women AAUW branch. Travel is a major part of my life as well and I appreciate that I can still do that along with volunteering with TIP.

You say you like to travel. What is your ultimate vacation (destination, activity, weather)?

My ultimate "vacation" would be to take a year to travel through Europe, staying for a month at a time living in houses/apartments in small villages throughout the continent, so I could really get a sense of life in those places.

If you had to move to a state or country besides the one you currently live in, where would you move and why?

Mark and I have actually thought about moving to Ireland. Ireland is beautiful, the pace of life is relaxed and the people are wonderful.

Deb, do you have a quote this a favorite of yours?

Yes, my favorite quote is "Attitude is everything." Right behind that would be "Blessed are they who can laugh at themselves, for they shall never cease to be amused."

One more question ` If you were to be remembered for one thing, what would you like it to be?

I spent my career working with kids who struggled with life, whether because of family issues, poverty, school problems or social discomfort. I'd like to be remembered as someone who cared and who tried her best to help them develop the skills and attitudes that would allow

them to lead fulfilling lives.

**Thanks Deb, we enjoyed our 10 minutes
with you and appreciate that you
volunteer with TIP.**