

# MY VIEW



*Founder Wayne Fortin*



## HAPPY NEW YEAR 2020

This is a time for making New Year's resolutions. I'd like to suggest 3 resolutions for TIP members. These are nothing you haven't heard before at TIP Training or at TIP meetings. But they all have 2 things in common that make them worth repeating...first, they have to do with the health and welfare of TIP volunteers and our clients; second, they are easy to lose sight of and take for granted. Here are the 3 TIP resolutions I hope each of us with commit to in 2020...

- 1. Stay Safe:** It goes without saying that returning safely from TIP calls to family and friends is the most important task of TIP volunteers. An entire book could be written about volunteer safety but let me mention just a few safety tips...
  - **Don't enter a home without emergency responders being present**, and don't let those responders leave until you feel safe.
  - If at any time the situation changes and you don't feel safe...**be assertive and BAIL.**
  - Know where you are going before leaving your home. Plot your route. **A lost TIP volunteer is a vulnerable TIP volunteer.**
  - **Have total situational awareness of what is going on around you.** Don't get Moth Light Syndrome.
  - **Don't find yourself on the side of a busy highway.** It's the most dangerous place you can be.
- 2. Stay Committed to the Mission.** Remember why you joined TIP in the first place. I'm sure it was to care for others. TIP is an organization with necessary rules, procedures, fundraisers and with many people taking on different roles. **But remember the Bottom Line: We only exist to care for others at the worst time in their lives.** And remember that although you may not receive too many "thank yous" from our traumatized clients, you make their on-scene experience bearable and you set a foundation for their long term healing.
- 3. Stay Competent.** Yes, you have been through the TIP Training Academy. But being a competent TIP volunteer requires ongoing learning. We owe it to our clients to be the most knowledgeable we can be about the helping relationship and about community resources. We only gain this knowledge by learning from our mistakes, by attending ongoing training sessions, by occasionally reviewing the resource guide and by learning from the experience of each other through call sharing. Our competence not only benefits our clients it's a necessary ingredient for staying

healthy as TIP volunteers. The more competent we are the more confident and less anxious we will be on TIP calls and the less likely we will be to second guess ourselves after TIP calls.

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**