



My View

THE JOY OF TIP

It's Golden Globe/Academy Award season, and I've been watching TV interviews conducted with many actors and directors.

One interview with the writer/director of Manchester by the Sea really struck home. Kenneth Lonergan talked about the process of making a movie....writing the script, ensuring the actors understand what he is trying to convey and then letting the actors bring the script to life.

He went on to say that the real joy of writing a script and directing actors is not the actual writing or directing but it's watching the actors take the script and "work their magic". Lonergan went on to describe how he loves witnessing the characters he created on paper brought to life in ways that he never expected. For years I have been trying to put into words my joy and enthusiasm for TIP. Mr. Lonegran's description of being a writer/director helped me articulate what really gives me joy as a TIP writer/director.

The joy of TIP for me has not been writing the TIP script...(the training manuals and written materials). That's work! Rather, the joy comes from sitting back and watching the actors (TIP Volunteers) work their magic with the script they have been given. On TIP call after TIP call TIP Volunteers, like academy award winning actors bring the TIP script to life in creative and marvelous ways.

Mr. Lonergan is always amazed when he watches the movie he's written come to life because of the actors. I too marvel at the ability of TIP Volunteers to go beyond their script in ways that leave me saying "WOW!". I must have said to individual TIP Volunteers a 1,000 times through the years: *"We didn't teach you how to do THAT. Where did THAT idea come from?"*

In short, the joy of TIP for me is watching our TIP Volunteer "actors" take the tools we give them and soar.

Thirty years ago when we were creating TIP, my mental health colleagues and I wondered if "ordinary" community residents could even do TIP work. No one wonders now!

Wayne would like to hear your thoughts.
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