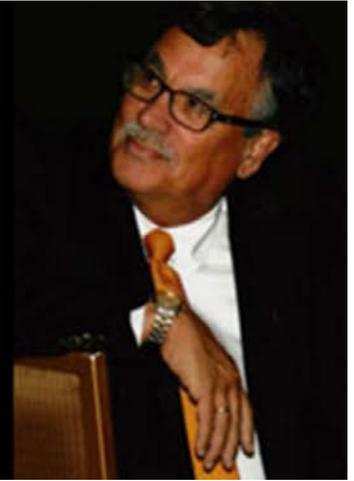


# MY VIEW



*Founder Wayne Fortin*



## GRATEFUL

In planning how to express my gratefulness to TIP members this Thanksgiving, I've come to a realization which I've had quite a few times before...there is no one group or individual that makes TIP work. So I'd like to use this space to express my gratitude to all of those.... in and out of TIP....visible and invisible .... who make TIP work.

**TIP is a fragile system of interdependent parts** which depends for its success on disparate segments of the community coming together for a common cause. TIP is successful only when citizens step up to volunteer; when emergency responders use the service; when clients open their lives to us; and when friends, family and community members rally to support the endeavor.

Sound easy? Well it's not. Getting people and organizations who are entrenched in the "way things are" in a local community to "buy in" to establish a TIP Affiliate is very difficult. And once the Affiliate is established there are many moving parts which need to be attended to and many people who need to be actively engaged in the effort. But when it happens...when people from all walks of life come together to make the TIP system work...**it's a beautiful thing to behold.**

What makes a local TIP system a "beautiful thing" and a source of amazement to me is it's voluntary nature. Many systems function because the key players are paid to play. Their livelihood depends on it. Not in TIP. All the participants who make TIP work play their parts **voluntarily** because they want to and not because they have to. TIP volunteers aren't required to volunteer; their family members don't need to willingly make the sacrifices they do; emergency responders don't need to call TIP to keep their jobs; and community members don't need to open their wallets.

In short, TIP Affiliates are fragile systems which depend on many people from across the community doing their parts. I am grateful to all of these community members who **VOLUNTARILY** play their unique roles in keeping TIP affiliates functioning. I am grateful to...

- **TIP Volunteers** who give an equivalent of 10 weeks of their lives to serving others and who will be doing so through the holidays.
- **Family members and friends** of TIP volunteers who serve as the all-important "support teams."
- **Chiefs** who give our Affiliates credibility and legitimacy.

- **Clients** who open their lives to us when they could easily shut us out.
- **First responders** who call us because of their care and compassion for those they serve.
- **Community members and donors** who can contribute to any community organization and chose to contribute to us.

**HAPPY THANKSGIVING to all!**