

TIP Profile

10 Minutes with a TIP Volunteer

(mostly serious questions and a few just for fun)



Volunteer: Jessica Orr

Affiliate: TIP on Northern Nevada, Inc. www.tipnnv.org

Years volunteering with TIP: 4 1/2 years

Jessica, why do you choose to volunteer with TIP?

"I am honored and humbled to live in a community that no matter what time it is, what day, or what event is going on, someone will be there for a stranger during their darkest hours. At this point I can't imagine not doing TIP or living in a community that isn't blessed to have a TIP chapter."

What are some of your favorite things about volunteering with TIP?

"My fellow TIP'sters are a second family, I have learned so much from them and developed some of the strongest friendships through TIP. I love being able to be a voice for our clients while on scene; to help them feel heard and respected and that someone, even a stranger, is there for them in the midst of all the chaos. I have enjoyed getting to know our emergency responders and respect more intimately what they have to do everyday. We are not only a voice for our clients but for everyone on scene; being able to bridge the relationship between our clients and emergency responders in our community is a "pay it forward" that even on a small scale has made an impact."

What do your family and friends say about your volunteering?

"My family and friends always say "I could not do what you do"; however I have learned over my time with TIP that its less what I "do" and more that I was "there". I will say I couldn't do this without the support from my husband! He helps get me prepped on the nights I am on call by cooking dinner early, (yes I am a lucky woman he is the chef in the house) so I am fed before the night shift starts, he will put the address into my phone so my GPS is already going, and when I get home he always checks in to make sure I am "okay". (I am very blessed!)"

Can you tell us about leadership roles you have/had in TIP?

"At the end of this month I will be attending train the Trainer to become a TIP National Trainer. I am very excited about this opportunity and to meet more people who share in my same passion."

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

"An adult son had just lost his father. He was very gruff and adamant about being a part of everything. He did not "need" me nor acted as if he even wanted me there. I remained on scene and did my TIP thing of hanging around, when the mortuary came he would not allow them to lift his father onto the gurney without his help and wanted to help take his father out. When we came back inside the officers stated they would be leaving and reminded the man that there was a TIP volunteer on scene and if there was anything else he needed I was there to help. The man looked at the officer and very directly stated "I know she is here she has been my angel all night". I was shocked as I felt that I had not done very much, if anything on this call, and was reminded that the simple act of just being there for another person sometimes is more than anything we can do."

Okay Jessica, lets find out more about you....

What do you do when you are not volunteering?

"My husband and I love the outdoors, camping, fishing, and hunting are some of our favorites. Our home is always full of friends and family looking for some of my husband's cooking (BBQ/smoking and dutch ovens are his specialty).

Name one extreme sport you might like to try.

"I have always wanted to be in a shark cage surrounded by great white sharks! It is number one on my bucket list!

If you could have two front row seats to any event, what would you want it to be?

" The Trans-Siberian Orchestra!!

How would you describe yourself in 3 words?

"I AM BATMAN!"

What is your favorite place on earth?

"My family owns a cattle ranch in the sand hills of Nebraska. The closest town is 40 minutes away and "neighbors" are not much closer. The sunsets will take your breath away, the people are hard working, kind, and genuine, the work is hard yet so rewarding, and my most favorite memories were made there."

Thanks Jessica, we enjoyed our 10 minutes with you. Keep up the good work and thanks for being a TIP volunteer.