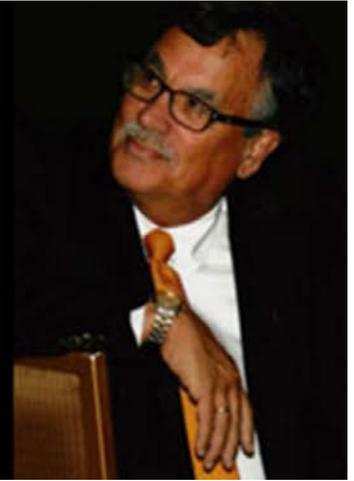


MY VIEW



Founder Wayne Fortin



TIP WARRIORS

When clients write to thank TIP for our service, they frequently refer to volunteers as “ANGELS.” This is not surprising. Volunteers from the client’s perspective just appear on the scene to help, and then seem to disappear without asking for anything in return. And volunteers have the qualities we think of when we think of angels... kind, gentle, humble, caring and compassionate.

But the pandemic has shown another side of TIP volunteers...the Warrior side. To help strangers during the pandemic takes courage, toughness, flexibility and persistence... all characteristics of the TIP Warrior. Being a TIP volunteer has always required that TIP volunteers possess these warrior characteristics, but during this pandemic, warrior traits are especially important. Here are just a few of the challenges TIP Warriors are now facing in responding to help survivors of tragedy...

- Suiting up with personal protective equipment (masks, gloves...)
- Making contact with clients outside their residence or hospital when they often want to stay inside.
- Trying to provide compassionate care while maintaining social distance.
- Avoiding potentially dangerous situations (a large crowd gathering, for example.)
- Putting up with almost unbearable heat as a result of being dressed in personal protective equipment.

We’ve trained volunteers for years to provide caring to clients by “zeroing in”, touching, making eye contact and generally “connecting.” Now, during the pandemic, volunteers are having to connect to clients while keeping distance, not touching, and staying outside the residence. In short, volunteers are having to provide emotional first aid to survivors of tragedy without the “connecting” tools they ordinarily have and in often challenging conditions.

But our TIP Warriors are rising to the occasion and taking on all the challenges they are facing. They are caring for others when it seems almost impossible to do so. Why? On the face of it, it doesn't make sense. But like all warriors, TIP Warriors do what they do because they are committed to a mission larger than themselves. For TIP Warriors, that mission is helping their neighbors at the worst time in their lives. TIP Warriors believe that this cause is so important that they won't let a once - in - a - 100 year worldwide pandemic stand in their way. Amazing!