

TIP Trauma Intervention Programs Inc.

ON CALL

Salute to On-Scene Heroes Ceremony

Fresno County Response Team
Winter 2008

What is TIP?

Trauma Intervention Programs (TIP) of Fresno is a local Chapter of a national voluntary nonprofit organization dedicated to ensuring that those who are emotionally traumatized in emergency situations receive the assistance they need. To accomplish this goal, TIP works closely with local communities to establish emergency services volunteer programs.

In these programs, extensively trained citizen volunteers are called to emergency scenes to assist family members, witnesses, and other bystanders whom the emergency system often must leave behind.

The TIP volunteer provides this necessary temporary support until the persons involved in the crisis are able to depend on family, friends, neighbors, and others.

TIP chapters across the country are working together with police, fire departments and hospitals to ensure that citizens in crisis receive immediate compassionate support.

"Our trained volunteers provide immediate on-scene emotional support to traumatized individuals after a tragic event."

-TIP Fresno Mission Statement

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Tip Teens— Young TIP volunteers provide peer support to traumatized teens.

Bilingual Volunteers—

Providing crisis services to victims in their own language.

Emotional First Aid Training—

Provided to emergency responders and the general public.



On October 17, 2008, TIP had a dinner honoring our first responders who have gone above and beyond their line of duty, and a silent and live auction. The five honorees were Sidney James D.O. from UCSF Fresno, Holly Rosas from American Ambulance, John Pepper from Fresno City Fire, Auberry Volunteer Fire Department, and Tracey Nutter from Cal Fire. The honorees were joined by their family and friends to celebrate the occasion. TIP would like to thank Cindy Suryan, Flint Epps, Doug Lanier,

Fresno Fire Academy Cadets, Jeremy Boriack, Fresno Sheriff's Department Explorers and Marty and Nancy Fanucchi for all their help in making this event successful.

The event was held at TORNINO'S in Fresno and the Fresno City Firefighters band "5150" provided great entertainment throughout the evening.

The event was wonderful, and we are looking forward to another year of "citizens helping citizens in crisis."

Fundraising

TIP has held several fundraisers this year in Fresno and in Prather. We held a BUNCO event in Clovis, two recycling events, one in Prather and one in Clovis, and a yard sale in Fresno.

All proceeds help fund the ongoing operations for TIP. On February 28, 2009 we will have another recycling event in Fresno. Please keep us in mind if you have any electronic equipment to dispose of at that time.

Words from some families that we have been called upon to help...

This comment was taken from a letter written by a long-distance truck driver who was hit head on by a vehicle that had a mother and her two sons, and the mother passed away at the scene. This driver got out and offered support to the boys. Our volunteers were called upon and were able to offer comfort and support to the truck driver and the family of the mother and her two sons who were shaken by the incident.

"This letter is to thank a person I probably will never see again. A crossing in the wind. That day she was a calming influence in a very traumatic day. From the bottom of my heart and soul I thank you for caring enough to donate your time to someone in a tragedy like mine. I know I'm not the only person who thinks this way. Anyone who has been comforted by you or someone in your organization knows what I am writing. My family and friends have been told of your heroic deed. You most likely think heroic is a word that doesn't fit. IT DOES. Without your support, that day would have been entirely different."

TIP 2008 Spirit Service Award and Volunteer Service Award Winner



Left to Right: Judy Holm, Carol Walsh, Betty Zumwalt, Susan Duty, Sharon Biswell, Zeeva Hammack, Fire Captain Rick McClung, Yolanda Akers, Jeanette Sutherlin, Gary Sutherlin, Pat Gallegos.
Picture at Volunteer Service Award Ceremony.

On Wednesday, April 30, 2008 at a luncheon hosted by the Volunteer Center of Fresno, TIP was selected to receive the Spirit of Service Award.

This award was based on volunteer work in Fresno and the foothills. Along with being selected for this local award, TIP received letters of appreciation and acknowledgement from Assemblyman Devin Nunez, Juan Arambula, Fresno Mayor Alan Autry and a letter and lapel pin from President Bush.

The Volunteer Service Award is a beautiful Pewter Dove in flight. In the letter from President Bush, it writes,

"My administration encourages every American to help their communities and our country. Through the USA Freedom Corps and the President's Council, we are building a culture of service, citizenship, and responsibility in America that will last for decades to come. Americans continue to serve and are part of the gathering momentum of millions of acts of kindness and decency that are changing America, one heart and one soul at a time. Your actions are part of this change. Through service to others, you demonstrate the outstanding character of America and help strengthen our country."

We hope to continue to make an impact in serving our community and to inspire others to join in our mission.

TIP Training Academy

On November 13, 2008, TIP held the Training Academy for new volunteers. We have six new recruits to add to our roster now and will utilize their special abilities to enhance the TIP program. The new volunteers are Beverly Sandusky, Connie Voyles, Leticia Ochoa, Stella Martinez, Tootie Harris and Traci Parkinson. Welcome aboard and thank you for joining our group of volunteers.

Our graduation and Christmas dinner were held December 9, 2008 at PELCO in Fresno. The new volunteers were joined with the TIP volunteers and their families. TIP is very excited to have six new recruits.

For future training opportunities, check our website at

<http://www.fresnotip.org>

"We will be viewed as a responsible, reliable and valuable resource by emergency responders. Our volunteers will provide emotional support to our communities within 20 minutes of dispatch."

-TIP Fresno Vision Statement

Volunteer Spotlight: Scott Van Wagenen

Scott Van Wagenen, an Attorney at Law, has a busy practice with nine employees. He is a husband and father of four children and serves in the bishopric at his church. With that, you might say that he has his hands full, but he is the type to go the extra mile and render service where he can.

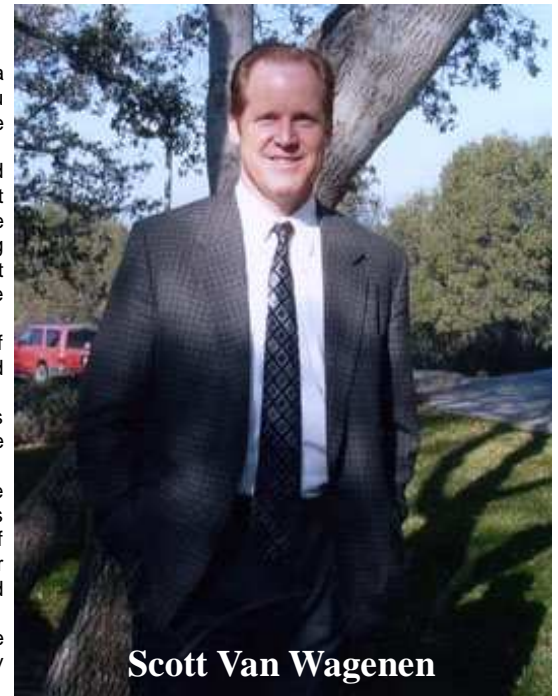
Scott agreed, at first, to 'try it out' when he was initially approached about becoming a board member for TIP, but didn't realize it was such a big commitment. As time has gone by, Scott says he has really enjoyed himself and says it's not a bad thing to be so busy with TIP. He reminisces about the volunteers and how much of their time and effort go into their training and the calls they process. He says he is impressed with each volunteer, because it's not about the glory with them and they truly love what they do. He aspires to be in the same category as these impressive volunteers.

When Scott joined the Board as Vice Chairman, the TIP office was located at the City of Fresno fire station on M Street. He has been so generous that he rented an office for TIP and paid the first year's rent.

Scott would like to see the TIP program reach into other areas of the Central Valley such as Visalia, Coalinga, and Kerman. He wants people to know what TIP does and get more people involved in the fundraising and is ready for the overwhelming amount of work it will require.

Scott was born in Los Angeles and moved to Fresno when he was five years old. Scott is the son of Rulon and Bonnie Van Wagenen. His father was a doctor in general practice and his mom stayed at home and raised him and his five brothers and sisters. He is a graduate of Clovis High School and served a two year mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in Argentina. He earned his Bachelor's Degree at Brigham Young University and his law degree at San Joaquin Valley College of Law.

Scott and his wife Katherine lead a busy life with their small children. In his free time he enjoys dirt bike riding, camping, reading historical biographies and watching the Discovery Channel on TV.



Scott Van Wagenen

Citizens Helping Citizens in Crisis

Auberry Volunteer Fire Department

As recognized outstanding first responders receiving the Salute to On-Scene Heroes award, the men and women of Auberry Volunteer Fire Department serve their community with pride, dedication and compassion, and are relentless in their efforts to serve their community and support TIP. Their motto is "Neighbors Helping Neighbors," and that is how they treat anyone who is in need of their services. They are tireless in their training and are always in support of TIP in any way that they can.



The heroes of the Auberry Volunteer Fire Department, being honored at TIP's Salute to On-Scene Heroes.

The Auberry Volunteer Fire Department provides their services to 45 square miles of the rural and mountainous foothills of Auberry. Under leadership of Chief Rick Schacher, this fire department has 18 active members and four auxiliary members. This group runs fire calls and medical aid calls, sometimes for friends, neighbors and family. When a TIP volunteer is called out to help, a member of the AVFD will wait until the volunteer's arrival and give a recap of the scene. If the call is more remote than usual, a volunteer from the fire department will stay with a TIP volunteer to make sure everything goes smoothly.

When asked about their experience with TIP, these volunteers stated, "The one problem we have always had is follow-up to a major incident or tragedy. We all have jobs and commitments outside of the fire department and it can be very challenging to stay in contact with those we have helped after the initial incident. TIP has been an absolute necessity for filling this role. Just like us, it doesn't matter what time of day or night, TIP is always there in a time of need or crisis. We have called upon TIP for everything from deaths to car accidents to homes destroyed by fire. Any time we have a victim who is suffering we can count on TIP to come and not only have the compassion and the ability to comfort the victim, but also the knowledge of what they need, usually beyond what anyone else would think of."

The Auberry Volunteer Fire Department is a great asset to the TIP Program!



14th Annual TIP Angel

The Foothill/ Mountain Response team has their Annual TIP Angel fundraiser in full swing!! This fundraiser started in 1995 by then TIP Volunteer Becky Lindholm, so that the response team could raise money to send a representative to the Annual TIP National Meeting. Since then, many local citizens and TIP Volunteers across the United States wait for the presentation of the yearly TIP Angel. Each year the Angel changes style, but always have that country charm.

The Angels are handmade by the seven local volunteers. They spend many hours, sewing dresses, adding lace, making hair, painting faces and lots of gluing. On average, the response team sells 200 to 225 Angels each year.

The Angels cost \$8.00 per Angel, not including shipping. Please contact Yolanda Akers at 559-905-4785 if interested in purchasing an Angel, or visit TIP online at <http://www.tipfresno.org>. PayPal is available.

The volunteers want to thank everyone for their support!

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<http://www.tipfresno.org>
<http://www.tipnational.org>

For over 14 years, TIP volunteers have been available 365 days a year, 24 hours a day, assisting families who have suffered tragedy by providing immediate emotional support.

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