

AFFILIATE e-NEWSLETTERS

Orange County
Portland/Vancouver
Fresno

National e-Newsletter
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FROM THE FOUNDER

HARD TIMES

TIP Affiliates are being affected by the downturn in the economy just like other non-profit organizations across the country. Donations are expected to be down significantly in 2009, and we are experiencing difficulties in recruiting and retaining volunteers. At the same time, the need for TIP services is increasing. TIP Affiliates are reporting a greater demand to assist survivors of suicide and increased domestic violence responses. This is not surprising. The stresses caused by the poor economy are causing additional stress in the lives of individuals and within families.

In short, TIP Affiliates will be asked to do more with less in the next year or two. The good news is that TIP Affiliates are "lean and mean" and are used to operating on a shoestring budget. We are used to "living poor with style."

Nevertheless, we will need to adapt to a severe recession and find creative ways of staying financially afloat. Here are my ideas:

- We need to maintain the quality of our core service. Our ability to survive and thrive will depend more than ever on our ability to "deliver the goods." We need to re-double our efforts to support and nurture our TIP "Volunteers who are the ones who deliver the goods."
- We need to make the case to our constituents and donors that TIP is needed more than ever. The poor economy is throwing many families into crisis and these families need our services. Our country is in crisis, and TIP is in a unique position to help.
- We need to stay close to our key funders. Our current donors are the ones most likely to help us navigate the downturn.
- We need to find creative ways of cutting expenses. For example, perhaps we can have our fundraising dinners in a hospital auditorium rather than in a hotel.
- Without being alarmists, we need to show our TIP volunteers the "Big Picture." TIP Volunteers are very resourceful and will help us if they understand our needs.
- We need to stay positive. There are many people who support TIP who still have good jobs (police, fire, hospital personnel) and the capacity to help us.

This is by no means an exhaustive list of things we can do to "weather the storm," and I welcome your ideas. I am optimistic. Our Affiliates have survived other crises situations and as an organization we are resilient.

By pulling together, sharing our "Best Practices" and by staying true to our mission, I believe we will not only survive these hard times, but we will find opportunities to become a stronger organization.

Wayne Fortin, Founder

TIP OF ORANGE COUNTY RESPONDS TO DEVASTATING FIRES

In mid-November, Orange County was affected by destructive fires which destroyed 100's of homes in the Yorba Linda and Brea areas. As in previous years, TIP of Orange County was called into action. Over a three-day period, TIP volunteers were deployed to evacuation centers and to neighborhoods to assist fire victims. TIP volunteers joined chaplains and firefighters and broke into small teams. Each team consisted of a TIP volunteer, a firefighter and a chaplain. These teams were tasked with assessing the needs of victims, providing them with information about their homes and providing emotional support to victims as they sifted through the rubble.

According to TIP volunteers, victims were very appreciative. TIP volunteer Dixie Trace felt that having teams representing Orange County Fire Authority in the affected neighborhoods was very important. *"I think it was very important that we helped victims not only in the evacuation centers, but also in the neighborhoods as residents returned to their homes. Seeing your destroyed home for the first time is very traumatic,"* said Trace. The experience of assisting fire victims and spending time in devastated areas had a tremendous impact on TIP volunteers. TIP volunteer Tonya Sandholm, who is new to



California saw up close the terrible reality of fires. *"This was an incredible up close look at the destruction fire causes,"* said Sandholm. *"It was really difficult to see the blackened areas, to walk through what was left of people's homes, and to see dead birds and other pets,"* she added.

According to TIP Crisis Team Manager, [Debbie Simpson](#), TIP volunteers really rose to the occasion to help during the fires. *"I'm very proud of our volunteers,"* said Simpson. *"They didn't hesitate to drop what they were doing to help those affected by the fire,"* she declared.



TIP volunteers felt privileged to be a part of the response teams organized by Orange County Fire Authority, and other members of the team appreciated TIP volunteers. Chaplain Jeff Hestchel believes that the help of TIP volunteers was essential during the fires. *"We worked together to provide emotional support to many who had lost their homes,"* expressed Hestchel. *"We walked together through the ashes of people's lives and helped them try to make sense of this tragedy,"* he said.

2008 ANNUAL MEETING A SUCCESS

On November 6, 7 and 8, TIP managers from across the country convened in Orange County, CA to participate in TIP National's Annual Meeting. The primary purpose of the meeting is to give managers an opportunity to learn about Best Practices from each other. Managers have reported that they returned home with many new ideas they can use to improve their TIP programs. According to [Mandy Atkission](#), Executive Director of TIP of San



Diego County, the annual meeting rejuvenated her and gave her many ideas she plans on implementing. *"I came home with a tremendous amount of material and many great ideas,"* commented Atkission. *"Even now, two months later, I'm still implementing what I learned at the Annual Meeting,"* she continued.

In addition to sharing "What Works," managers listened to presentations from outside speakers. Speakers included a fire chief, police chief and a physician. Feedback from TIP managers after each speaker was "WOW."

Although there was no official theme for the meeting, the concept of excellence seemed to be a common message. *"If I had to summarize the underlying message of the meeting, it would be to strive for excellence. Many of the speakers exhorted us not to rest on our laurels but to continually strive to*

improve and innovate," says Wayne Fortin, TIP Founder.

The 2008 Annual Meeting was the 15th year TIP National has organized an annual meeting. According to Lou Binninger, Crisis Team Manager of TIP of Yuba/Sutter/Butte Counties, CA, all annual meetings have been worthwhile and they continually get better. "I really like coming to these meetings," said Binninger. "This meeting was especially worthwhile. It was the best!" he exclaimed.

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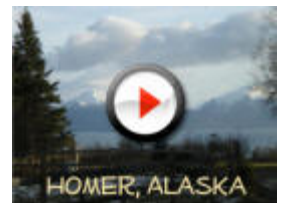
TIP CONDUCTS EMOTIONAL FIRST AID COURSE IN ALASKA



Heather Sargeant

On October 23-26th, TIP Founder Wayne Fortin and TIP National Trainer Heather Sargeant traveled to Homer, Alaska, to conduct a weekend Emotional First Aid Seminar. There were 23 attendees including EMT's, sexual assault nurses, teens, domestic violence advocates and local residents. Haven House, a local nonprofit organization, sponsored the seminar. Margaret Coleman, the Executive Director of Haven House, wanted her staff and others in the community to have core emotional first aid skills. Ms. Coleman believes that regardless of the type of victims that helpers serve (rape, domestic violence . . .) helpers all need basic emotional first aid skills. Participants evaluated the as "excellent" and reported that it was a very worthwhile use of their time.

The trip to Homer was quite an adventure for Mr. Fortin and Ms. Sargeant. Both agreed that Homer is a beautiful place with gorgeous views of Kachemak Bay and snow-capped mountains and glaciers. Although Homer is a relatively small community, both trainers were very impressed with the residents. According to Wayne Fortin, the Homer residents who attended the seminar were very committed to helping others in the community. "Homer is a place which obviously attracts people who want to make a difference," remarked Mr. Fortin.



According to Heather Sargeant the trip was very worthwhile. "The attendees at our seminar really had a firm grasp of emotional first aid by the end of the seminar. I felt we really established a knowledge base in Homer upon which those who attended our seminar will build," she stated.

**TIP is available to conduct
Emotional First Aid Seminars
to community groups
or to employees in the workplace**

BOOK NOW FOR 2009!

For more information,
Contact Wayne Fortin at 714.314.0744
or by email at TIPIncCEO@aol.com

TIP ANNUAL MEETING NEWPORT HARBOR CRUISE



The Orange County Chapter hosted this year's TIP National Annual Meeting attended by various TIP leaders from across the Country. The first day's evening social, on November 6, was a Newport Harbor cruise on the yacht, Endeavor. Joining us to welcome our affiliates were Orange County TIP constituents as well as San Diego and Orange County TIP volunteers. It was a typical beautiful Southern California evening and everyone enjoyed the cruise and friendly social exchanges. Click image to view a short video of this evening's event.

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SAN DIEGO ANNUAL POLICE MOTORCYCLE COMPETITION



The San Diego Motor Officers Association held their annual Police Motorcycle Competition on September 11, 2008. Each year, motor officers from around the country come to San Diego to compete in the obstacle courses. This year, the SDMOA chose TIP of San Diego to be the beneficiary of all profits made from the event. On November 3rd at the Heroes on Scene event, Bob Van Wulvan presented TIP with a \$5,000 check, of which we are all so grateful.

HEROES WITH HEART DINNER AND FUNDRAISING

TIP OF OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA



A memorial plaque was presented by TIP of Okaloosa County, Florida to Sheriff Charlie Morris for Deputy Tony Forgione who was killed in the line of duty.

Many thanks to Diane Conroy, Brenda Cadenhead, Dianne Tomlin, Linda Epperson, Lynn Bowling, and Glenda Newman who attended the presentation. The plaques were designed by Brenda Cadenhead and presented by Diane Conroy.

TIP OF SOUTHWEST RIVERSIDE

On September 27, 2008, TIP of Southwest Riverside County held its 4th Annual Heroes With Heart Awards Dinner at the Pechanga Resort and Casino in Temecula, CA. The gala event raised over \$20,000 for the Southwest Riverside Affiliate.

The Southwest Riverside Affiliate honored 12 first responders as Heroes With Heart. One of the honorees received the **Top Firefighter Award**. This award is given in the name of the late Philip Armentrout who was the Fire Chief of Murietta, CA. Chief Armentrout's widow presented the Philip Armentrout Top Firefighter award to the family of Captain Matt Moore who unfortunately died earlier in the year. Another one of the evening's honorees was the recipient of the Kent Kindergart **Top Cop Award**. This award is given annually in memory of Deputy Kent Kindergart who was the first deputy killed in the line of duty in the S.W. Riverside region. Deputy Kindergart's widow presented the Top Cop Award to Community Services Officer Miriam Shumway. The evening was very moving and there wasn't a dry eye in the house when Chief Armentrout's widow and Deputy Kindergart's widow presented the awards in their husbands' memories.



CSO Miriam Shumway , Lake Elsinore Station with Lake Elsinore Mayor Bob Magee



Top Firefighter winner Murrieta Fire Department Captain Matt Moore's widow, Lisa Moore and their 2 sons

According to Gina Magee, TIP of Southwest Riverside County's Crisis Team Manager, over 240 people attended the dinner. *"It's wonderful to see the level of support TIP received from the first responder community,"* said Magee. *"Their compassion toward citizens never ceases to amaze me. When our volunteers received a standing ovation, you could feel it was genuine."* she asserted.

TIP OF PORTLAND/VANCOUVER

On October 30, 2008, TIP of Portland/Vancouver hosted its Annual Heroes with Heart Dinner at the Embassy Suites Airport Hotel in Portland, OR. A sellout crowd of over 400 people attended the gala event.

This annual dinner is not only a way of recognizing emergency responders, but it's also TIP of Portland/Vancouver's major annual fundraiser. According to June Vining, TIP of Portland/Vancouver's Executive Director, the event raised a significant amount of money in very creative ways. *"We auctioned a dog and it went for \$950.00!"* said Vining. *"Also, the 230 bottles of wine on our Wall of Wine sold out in 30 minutes."* she added.

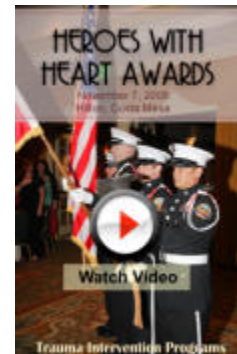
All in all, the 2008 Heroes With Heart Dinner was definitely a WOW event!

TIP ORANGE COUNTY

On November 7, 2008 TIP of Orange County held its annual 2008 Heroes With Heart Dinner. Sheriff Sandra Hutchens, the honorary chairperson, welcomed over 350 TIP supporters who gathered at the Hilton, Costa Mesa.

The Heroes With Heart Dinner honors police officers, firefighters, coroner investigators and hospital personnel who provide compassionate support to victims of tragic events. According to Wayne Fortin, TIP Founder, TIP volunteers nominate emergency personnel who they witness going out of their way to provide kindness and caring to those whose lives have been devastated. *"We want to recognize those quiet behind the scenes acts of kindness. Those we recognized at our Heroes Dinner are really unsung heroes. Although they do mostly small things for people in crisis, these acts of compassion make a huge difference to those who are experiencing the worst time in their lives,"* conveyed Mr. Fortin.

The dinner was TIP of Orange County's major fundraiser and attendees generously bid on silent auction items and bought raffle tickets for a chance to win a weekend in Laguna Beach. The dinner was sponsored by many generous corporate sponsors including the following major sponsors --- The Bender Family, Costa Mesa Firefighters Association, Crime Scene Steri Clean, Herzog Contracting Corp, Lifestyle Portfolios, Toshiba American Medical and ACLEM.



Of course, the dinner could not have been a success without a very hard working dinner committee. The committee was chaired by Sandy Hill and co-chaired by Barbara Amaya, Kymber Hansen, Stephanie Kallestad, and Debra Kennard.

TIP is already planning next year's Heroes With Heart Dinner. Stay tuned!

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QUOTABLE

"I'm not really interested in how much you love your neighbors. That's easy...I'm interested in how well you love strangers. It's that love for strangers that will make you an educated, literate, passionate, imaginative and special human being." --- Will Ferrell

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TIP services are provided free of charge to citizens experiencing traumatic events in their lives.
TIPNational is able to operate and continue establishing new Chapters across the nation thanks to the generous contributions of our supporters. Give online at
<http://www.TipNational.org/donatetotip.htm>.

TIP is a 501(c)(3) Tax Exempt Organization And Your Contribution is Tax Deductible

For information about Trauma Intervention Programs, Inc., visit our website at
TIPNational.org or contact
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