



My View

BACK IN THE DAY

TIP of San Diego, the founding TIP Chapter is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year. I spoke at their 30th anniversary celebration recently, and took the opportunity to talk about the differences and similarities between TIP "back in the day" and TIP today. Here is a summary of what I said....

- Back in the Day....TIP was a partnership with one police department.
- Today...TIP partners with police departments, fire departments, EMS, coroner's offices, airports and parks.
- Back in the Day...TIP served one city.
- Today...TIP serves multiple cities and counties in 8 states.
- Back in the Day...TIP was a program of a county mental health center.
- Today...TIP is an independent nonprofit organization.
- Back in the Day...TIP had one program, the crisis response team.
- Today...TIP Chapters have multiple programs including a teen program, emotional first aid training programs, comfort dogs and No One Dies Alone programs.
- Back in the Day...the volunteer training manual was 10 pages.
- Today...the volunteer training manual is 272 pages.
- Back in the Day...we were receiving 1 call a month.
- Today...TIP Volunteers respond to over 500 calls a month.
- Back in the Day...we had 12 TIP Volunteers.
- Today... there are over 600 TIP Volunteers in the country.
- Back in the Day...TIP volunteers did not have smart phones.
- Today...TIP Volunteers use smart phones on TIP Calls to do things like helping clients locate resources and playing games with children who are involved in tragic situations.
- Back in the Day...we communicated with the community and TIP constituents via newspaper and by distributing flyers.
- Today...TIP Chapters use Facebook, email, twitter and other forms of social media to communicate with our constituents and to recruit volunteers.
- Back in the Day...we wondered (and argued about) if community volunteers who were not mental health professionals could do what we knew would be very challenging crisis intervention work.
- Today...we know that TIP Volunteers are ideally suited for responding to help those in the worst hours of their lives. TIP Volunteers can bring a "pure caring" to survivors of tragedy in the immediate aftermath of the event

You would think that with all of these changes over the years that I would hardly recognize the TIP of today. But actually, TIP at its core is exactly the same program as it was 30 years ago. We are still focused on helping the survivors of "daily disasters"; we are still in partnership with public safety and emergency healthcare providers; we still respond 24/7/365; we still respond quickly to anywhere we are requested; and we still use community volunteers to provide our service.

I believe that it is precisely because we been true to our mission and because we have maintained our high standards that we are alive and well today as an organization.

Our path forward seems clear....continue to change and innovate while staying true to our mission and to our high standards.

My hope is that thirty years from now that our organization will be characterized by both an adherence to change and innovation ("New TIP") and the same mission and high standards we have today("Old TIP").

Wayne would like to hear your thoughts.
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