



“CITIZENS HELPING CITIZENS IN CRISIS”

I've watched the media coverage of Hurricane Harvey with deep sadness for the victims whose lives have been devastated. But at the same time, I have found myself being inspired by the spontaneous helping by residents of each other. No fuss... No muss. Just "ordinary people" doing what they need to do to help those in trouble. Some are helping with clean up, others jumped into the water to save a life and others hitched their boats to a truck and rescued people trapped in their homes.

All of this helping activity in the flood affected area can be summed up in a phrase we are familiar with in TIP... "*citizens helping citizens in crisis*." That's our motto and has been for 32 years. Our TIP volunteers like volunteers in Houston are ordinary residents reaching out to help their neighbors in crisis. The difference is our volunteers aren't highlighted and celebrated in the media as the Harvey helpers are. That's OK. I'm delighted that Houston's modern day good Samaritans are receiving the attention they deserve.

The intense nonstop coverage of "*citizens helping citizens*" in Houston has given me a renewed appreciation of our "*citizens helping citizens*" organization. As a matter of fact, when I ask myself why I've stuck with TIP for 32 years I realize it's not because I like all the activities involved with leading a nonprofit organization. That can be a grind. It's that I've had a front row seat watching "*citizens helping citizens in crisis*." I haven't needed to turn on TV during times of major disasters to be inspired by ordinary people doing extraordinary work. I just need to attend a TIP volunteer meeting or debrief a volunteer after a TIP call.

And I know I'm not alone. TIP Volunteers themselves value being on a team of other good people who reach out to help others in trouble. When TIP volunteers

hear their fellow TIP members' stories of compassion and caring they are inspired and motivated.

Our "*citizen helping citizen*" motto has been with us from the beginning of TIP. Maybe because it's been with us for so long, I've taken it for granted. Not anymore. I may not be shouting "*we are citizens helping citizens in crisis*" from the rooftops, but when I communicate about TIP to others, "*citizens helping citizens in crisis*" will be at the center of my message. I know no other 5-word phrase which more succinctly describes who we are.