



WE DON'T DO IT ALONE

Recently I read a quote from former CEO of Starwood Hotels, Frits van Paasschen: "*Anyone who believes he's a self-made man has a very selective memory.*"

Maybe the reason this theme struck me is that I live in a perpetual state of gratefulness for those who helped start and grow the TIP organization with me. While I have the title of founder, there are in fact many founders of TIP...A Founding Team. This team is composed of those who opened doors, provided "leads" and resources, worked to establish local TIP Affiliates, served on TIP boards, fought our battles, and on and on. Without these founders helping us negotiate the twists and turns of establishing and growing our organization, we wouldn't be here. These founders are individuals whose names most don't know but who are permanently etched in my memory.

Like me, I am sure every TIP leader would agree that they wouldn't be successful without the willingness of volunteers to respond to TIP calls and without our many TIP champions in the community.

Why do we as TIP leaders need to be reminded that "*I don't do it alone?*" Because our egos are always whispering to us..."*you did this.....you deserve all the credit....*" Without our constant vigilance, the ego will prevail. What are the consequences for TIP leaders of an ego victory?

- Lack of Resources: Leaders who believe they can do it alone will not call upon others, and they will not have the benefit of their talents and resources.
- Leadership: People follow humble leaders, not those "*puffed up*" who take all the credit for their group's successes.
- Stress: Those who think they need to do it all alone will be weighed down by stress and will eventually burn out.

How can TIP Leaders embrace humility and fight the ego's desire to be recognized as # 1? To defeat our wily and persistent egos involves....

- Honoring our personal and group's history. The ego depends on what Frits van Paasschen calls "*selective memory*" to survive. We need to remember and appreciate all the people who came before us and upon whose shoulders we have built our success.
- Giving others all of the credit for achievements.
- Continually thanking others for their contributions.
- Taking responsibility for mistakes and failures.... "*Every failure I consider my own, but every success has been shared.*" Michael J Fox
- Frequently asking for help.

The challenge of remembering "*I don't do it alone*" is never done. TIP Volunteers are always heaping praise on their key leaders for TIP's success. That's understandable. After all, the TIP leader(s) is the face of TIP and it can seem to volunteers like they are primarily responsible for TIP's success. When this praise comes your way as a TIP leader.... smile, say thank you and....

Don't buy it!