



Awesome TIP Volunteers

I have been in a constant state of awe of TIP volunteers since they began responding to TIP calls years ago. Here are just a few of the things about our volunteers that awe me...

1. **Courage:** We are all familiar with the courage it takes to run into burning buildings, to fight crime or to go to war. I call that physical courage. TIP volunteers have a different kind of courage...emotional courage. Being with parents whose baby has died 30 minutes earlier is emotional courage; standing by a wife whose husband just completed suicide is emotional courage; listening to an 85-year-old woman talk about her deceased spouse of 50 years is emotional courage.

I'm in awe of the **courage** of our TIP volunteers!

2. **Healers:** TIP volunteers are on the front line of the mental health system. For survivors of tragedy healing begins with TIP volunteers. The presence of volunteers on tragic scenes facilitates the emotional healing of those affected and can prevent the need for professional mental health treatment.

I'm in awe of the **healing** powers of our TIP Volunteers!

3. **Doers:** TIP is a good idea. But unless TIP volunteers put that idea into action every day that's all that TIP would be...an idea. TIP volunteers are the doers in the TIP organization. When first responders request a TIP volunteer, volunteers don't ask questions or wonder if they should respond. They just go! When I have asked TIP volunteers for help over the years (whether or not the request fits their volunteer "job description") the response has always been: *"I can do that."*

I'm in awe of the willingness of our TIP Volunteers to **DO!**

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