

MY VIEW



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An Open Letter to Police Chief's Across America

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Hello Police Chiefs:

Many police departments across the country have implemented a program in partnership with our organization called the **Trauma Intervention Program (TIP)**. In these programs, residents work side by side with police officers to assist those who have been victims of crime and tragedy. These “**TIP volunteer-police officer teams**” provide immediate on scene support to residents who are in shock and desperately need guidance and support.

The TIP Program is one solution to the challenge many police departments have of how to improve their relationship with their communities, especially minority communities. When well-trained community volunteers respond to crisis events and work with the police, the following positive results occur:

1. **TIP is a relationship building program** between the police and community residents, including members of minority communities. When residents and the police work together on a regular basis, they gain a greater understanding and respect for each other.
2. TIP volunteers are highly trained on how to support survivors of crime and tragedy. When these volunteers respond to crisis scenes with the police, they are able to provide tremendous support to those affected. Residents who have been traumatized **never forget this immediate positive support provided by the police**, and they frequently talk about it with others.
3. A TIP program makes a **police department more efficient and more effective**. TIP volunteers have the time and expertise to provide victims and survivors with a high level of service, while freeing police officers to return to service to focus on providing essential public safety services.

If you are interested in information about how you can implement a TIP Program in your community go to www.tipnational.org.