



My View

THE GIFT OF ENTHUSIASM

This month I am celebrating a milestone birthday, and I realize that I have been involved in TIP for almost half of my lifetime. What surprises me the most about my long tenure with TIP is that my enthusiasm for the program is as great today as it was years ago.

What a blessing! I say "blessing" because I really haven't made an effort to be enthusiastic. Rather my enthusiasm seems like a gift...like something that is just there.

The major reason I am grateful for this "gift of enthusiasm" (other than it just feels good) is that enthusiasm is something effective leaders need to possess. I realize I can't be a TIP leader without it. I know that if and when my enthusiasm leaves me it will be time for me to leave TIP.

My enthusiasm isn't about the TIP organization as a whole nor about the "idea" of TIP. Rather my enthusiasm is fueled on a daily basis by little things about TIP which make me smile.

These "enthusiasm boosters" include many many experiences including when I read what emergency responders say about TIP; when I teach at TIP Training Academies and I witness "ordinary citizens" doing the hard work it takes to become TIP Volunteers; when I attend a Heroes with Heart dinner and hear a heart wrenching testimonial from a TIP client; when I attend continuing education meetings and hear about the exploits of TIP Volunteers as they respond to TIP calls; and when I see a TIP Leader or a TIP Volunteer taking on a responsibility that is a bit "scary" and makes him stretch.

I could go on, but you get the point. My days in TIP are filled with daily "sweet surprises" and "warm appreciations" regarding TIP people and TIP activities.

I never would have guessed that after all these years that I would feel like a kid in a candy store with good stuff happening all around me. I never would have guessed that I would still "get a kick" out of seeing the whole TIP system actually working when in many ways it really shouldn't...responders calling, volunteers responding, clients receptive. "TIP Works!" I say to myself almost incredulously on a regular basis.

I wish I could end this My View with advice about "How to Maintain Your Enthusiasm About TIP." But as I said at the beginning, I consider my enthusiasm a gift ...something given, not something earned. I only hope that each of you has been given the gift of enthusiasm as well.

Wayne Fortin, Founder
Trauma Intervention Programs, Inc.

TipIncCeo@aol.com

714-314-0744

See all of Wayne's *My Views* at www.tipnational.org