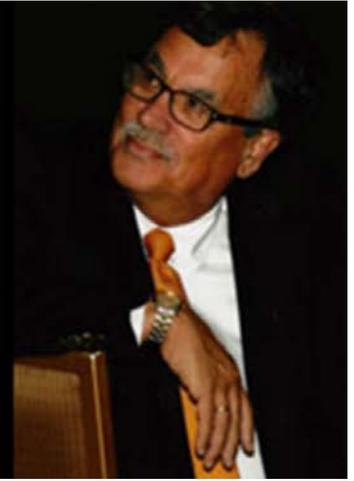


MY VIEW



Founder Wayne Fortin



A Miracle in Corona

NOTE: On 3/3/2022 TIP of Corona celebrated their 25 + 1 anniversary. When I spoke at the event, I tried to convey my awe at this accomplishment. Following is what I presented:

Good evening, the invitation I received says *"We are Celebrating 25 + 1."* I like to say *"We are celebrating a Miracle in Corona."*

Before you think I've lost my mind talking miracles, let me tell you how Webster defines a miracle: *"A highly improbable accomplishment that brings welcome consequences."*

I maintain that TIP of Corona is a highly improbable accomplishment... A Miracle

Why? There are 5 reasons:

1. TIP of Corona is a **statistical improbability**... 70 % of small businesses go out of business in first 10 yrs.
2. **The promise** TIP made to public safety agencies and to the hospital 26 years ago... call us anytime, anywhere, for anything and we'll be there in 20 minutes **was too good to be true.** Who in the world could make good on that promise?
3. **The use of citizen volunteers as crisis interventionists was considered outrageous** by mental health professionals at the time. Their message: *"You can't use amateurs. You need mental health professionals to do this work!"*
4. No one thought (including me) that the plan to deliver TIP's comprehensive services on **all volunteer basis**, with no paid staff, would work.
5. Finally, even if TIP of Corona got up and running, chances were that **skeptical emergency responders would not use it.**

For these 5 reasons the chances of TIP of Corona succeeding were improbable. It would take a miracle!

And that's what happened!

How? I have had a front row seat as TIP of Corona developed, and I witnessed **5 powerful forces at work that contributed to the Miracle in Corona.**

1. **The Power of Leadership...** This has been Becky Gunnoe's life's work. She is celebrating 26 years as leader here. A person on a mission doing their life's work is a powerful force.

And Becky is a humble leader. She assembled an enthusiastic leadership team that has led TIP of Corona for years.

2. **The Power of Citizen Volunteers...** No PHD'S, MBA's or consultants on this team! Just amateur helpers in love with TIP's Mission. When people question how amateurs can do crisis intervention work, I remind them that... *"Amateurs built the Arc. Professionals built the Titanic."*
3. **The Power of Action...** Becky and her volunteers haven't spent lots of time over the years talking, thinking, discussing and writing about compassion. They simply put compassion into action. They just do it. A call comes in... they go. Another call comes in... they go. A pandemic hits... they keep on going.
4. **The Power of Small...** Becky loves Corona and she developed TIP as gift to Corona. No empire building. Small and focused with high standards. I think anthropologist Margaret Meade had TIP of Corona in mind when she said: *"Never underestimate the ability of a small group of people to change the world. That's the only way it ever happens."*
5. **The Power of Brave...** There is an old saying: *"Fortune favors the brave."* TIP of Corona has had good fortune because it has been brave...

- The promise made 26 years ago was brave.
- Responding with citizen volunteers is brave.
- Operating as an all-volunteer corps is brave.
- Volunteers responding to help strangers in the middle of the night is brave.

It's not surprising the Big Dispatcher in the Sky has smiled down on this brave organization and bestowed good fortune on it.

So that's how a Miracle in Corona happened... A small group of brave Corona citizens led by a leader engaged in her life's work committed themselves to helping their neighbors in crisis whenever and wherever the crisis occurred.

And the miracle keeps on going and going...