

Mr. Pete Radigan
Mr. Frank Bodino
Transplant Speakers International
PO Box 6395
Freehold, NJ 07728

Dear Pete, Frank and TSI Staff,

As the Volunteer and Special Event Coordinator of Iowa Donor Network, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Transplant Speakers International as well as commend them for their very fine work in the promotion of organ and tissue donation.

Transplant Speakers International came to Iowa Donor Network when we needed them most! It was the summer of 2000 and I was deep in the process of attempting to reorganize our volunteer troops. With that, I (well, we.... I needed a lot of help) decided to hold a volunteer rally in Des Moines. We invited all 300 of our volunteers to this event where we told them about new volunteer programs, loaded them up with information and supplies to take home, fed them (of course!) and gave them "speakers bureau" training. In my preceding 6 months of contact with TSI, I had decided to let them (TSI) do the core of the speakers bureau training at the all-day rally which was held on a beautiful mid-September day. The event went off without a hitch! IDN staff as well as the volunteers were truly impressed with TSI (which included Jack and Frank). Not one evaluation form included a less-than-stellar comment!

We held another volunteer rally in early March 2001 and again asked TSI to attend. As expected they (this time Frank and Ed) did a fabulous job guiding our volunteers on what to say and how to say it! It was once again, a wonderful day!

As I am sure most people in my position can relate too, I am many times overwhelmed with the unleashed energy volunteers can possess (bless them). I have thousands of "we want to helps!!!" but very few, "this is what I/we did". This can be very frustrating, as often times the work needed to channel a volunteer's energy is just not worth the results received! What impresses me MOST about TSI is their ability to encourage the volunteers to not only get out there and be confident in what they are doing, but also to become more independent in their existence as a transplant-world-related speaker and representative. TSI encourages volunteers to NOT rely on the OPO to hold their hands which is so very much appreciated by me.

We all know that the best way to win audiences over to the idea of organ and tissue donation is through one-on-one contact. I would much rather go out and speak to a group of 15 than sit at a health-fair booth where 300 people may walk by. There's just something about seeing a story in someone's eyes and hearing the emotion in their voices that can get someone's attention faster than anything else. TSI doesn't train volunteers to be lecturers, overwhelming the audience with statistics, numbers and medical

information, rather TSI teaches them to tell their story and to appeal to the emotions within the audience.

For everyone who has not thought about having TSI attend your event, I encourage you to do so. They are a wonderful group and so worth the minimal effort and few phone calls it takes to get them to your site. At first I thought they must be too good to be true.... I am elated (through their persistence) I decided to give them a try. Once you make contact with TSI, you will be truly glad you did!

In closing, my deepest gratitude to the wonderful staff at TSI!

Sincerely,

Kelly L. Sorensen
Volunteer and Special Event Coordinator
Iowa Donor Network