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## Volunteer Trainer Creates Win-Win for Participants and Community

Tina Levy, twelfth-floor IT Consultant, has launched a venture designed to maximize the effectiveness of volunteer groups in the Tampa Bay area by concentrating on the potential leadership qualities within each person.

"Volunteers often have big hearts and the best of intentions but sometimes lack team cohesion and skills to accomplish what they set out to do," Tina says.

She has developed a series of experiential workshops designed to develop communication skills within groups, to build team enthusiasm and cooperation and to show all involved the significance of their contribution, regardless of its extent.

"Burnout is one of the biggest problems in volunteer organizations," Tina says. She believes that when an organization is too busy to recruit or does not devote time to retaining the interest of their volunteers through training and other means, they may often defer to using a select, dependable group of volunteers over and over again. These volunteers will eventually tire and stop answering the phone.

"The workshops I lead and the exercises we do in them teach participants that everyone is, to some extent, a leader and that often they exhibit the characteristics of a leader in whatever role they play. Learning to recruit others and building self-confidence creates sharing of responsibility, which reduces burnout. The team has more enthusiasm, performs better, usually expands in size, and the goal is attained through their collective effort."

Her company's name is indicative of the services provided - G.I.V.E. Service, Inc.



*Tina Levy, IT Consultant*

with the acronym standing for Growth, Integrity, Vitality, and Enthusiasm.

Tina's project is growing as more organizations and companies become privy to her workshops and their effectiveness. "There is a definite need for this type of team training," she says.

Tina is currently working on an ongoing basis with volunteer groups at her church and has upcoming training workshops with a local restaurant as well as with a countywide coalition of victim rights advocates.

Tina adds, "Everyone has valuable capabilities in a volunteer group, on a corporate team, in any setting where a goal has been established. Sometimes people need some assistance discovering just how important their roles are."

Information on Tina, G.I.V.E. Service, Inc. and its training workshops, e-mail Tina at [giveservice@earthlink.net](mailto:giveservice@earthlink.net) or visit GSI's web-site at <http://home.earthlink.net/~giveservice>