

PETER VOLKMANN, MSW

BIOGRAPHY

Peter Volkmann, MSW graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice from Mercy College and received his Masters in Social Work from Fordham University. Peter is a faculty member for the International Critical Incident Stress Foundation (ICISF) in Ellicott City, MD in which he received the 2017 recipient of the ICISF Lifetime Achievement Award for his accomplishments in Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) internationally. Because of his vast experience in the different rescue fields and the social work profession, Peter is utilized as a crisis interventionist and trainer for rescue departments, government municipalities, schools, and corporate organizations around the United States who have experienced traumatic events. He assisted in the development of the Uniform Service Program for PTSD at Brattleboro Retreat in Vermont. Peter has been featured as an expert on stress for Dateline (NBC), Discovery Channel, MSNBC, and Law Enforcement Television Network (LETN). He is featured on the documentary "Uprooting Addictions" and featured in "Rethinking How We Police Addiction". Peter developed "Law Enforcement Perspectives Course for CISM Enhancement" and "Human Spirit and Faith Tactics in CISM" which are an approved courses of ICISF. He has trained and assisted the startup of numerous critical incident response teams throughout the United States. Peter developed through the University of Albany School of Public Health "ASAP-Active Shooter Action Program" designed for schools, businesses, and communities. He has also written a children's book "The Story of Luvée Bunny" to inspire hope in recovery from mental illness and substance use disorder.

Peter retired as a police officer and an emergency medical technician with the Town of Ossining, New York Police Department. His career began in 1984 and he received numerous citations and lifesaving awards. Upon retirement, Peter moved to Stuyvesant and continued his career in serving Columbia County community. He was a firefighter with Stuyvesant Fire Company in which he was a recipient of the 2014 Columbia County Firefighter of the Year with his fire crew. He commanded as Police Chief at Stockport NY Police Department for 4 years. During this time the Town of Stockport was deemed the safest town in New York State in 2013. Peter was Police Chief of Chatham NY Police for 7 years and received recognition that the Village of Chatham NY was deemed the safest Village in New York State in 2015. He created "Your Cop" program in which Chatham officers personally meet every resident and discuss police services and any community concerns. Officers are assigned neighborhoods to stay in contact with residents as "their cop". Peter has developed "Chatham Cares 4 U" (CC4U) Initiative in which any person can request help for opioid addiction and a treatment bed will be arranged with transportation...guaranteed. Peter has testified before NYS Assembly and NYS Senate on the NYS opioid crisis. He was invited and attended the White House in 2018 to a national opioid crisis forum of "Best Practices to the Opioid Crisis". He was invited to the 2020 State of the Union Address for his accomplishments. He has received the 2018 Police Assisted and Recovery Initiative (PAARI) Leadership Award for his work with CC4U. In 2018, Peter ran for political office and surprisingly lost by the smallest margin in 100 years in Columbia County NY as an opposing political party candidate. Peter was also the Columbia Greene Community College Zone 14 Police Academy Director for two years. He was the Clinical Director of Schenectady NY PD Peer Support Team+ for 10 years. Peter was a Member of the Board for Mental Health Association of Columbia-Greene. He considers his greatest law enforcement accomplishment being a first responder on 9-11-01 to the World Trade Center Disaster.

Peter has moved forward from so many of his life's challenges and tribulations with the same integrity and dedication to service that have defined his more than thirty-year career. He continues his practice as a Critical Incident Stress Management instructor and lecturer and continues his groundbreaking work in developing addiction recovery programs. Peter has been blessed throughout his life with the ongoing support and belief expressed by who have known Peter for decades and deeply respect his work as a pioneer in crisis intervention and addiction recovery (Peter himself has been in recovery for the past 25 years).

Now, applying his decades of professional knowledge and experience, and integrating his additional experience in overcoming those challenges and difficulties he faced over his lifetime, Peter has developed seminars that focus on foundational faith and spiritual strengths that create a powerful, working blueprint for recovery from deep life crises. The seminars are based on Peter's concept, "*Land of Never*" ("this will *never* happen to me") and offer focused guidance and specific techniques for overcoming the most difficult passages of life. Specifically, the "*Land of Never*" defines and applies to the kind of life crisis that has the potential to forever cripple the human spirit, both emotionally and spiritually. Peter's "*Human Spirit and Faith Tactics*" seminars meet the needs of both professionals and lay people.

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