

MTA's Dave Schlesinger Honored for Work with Crisis Victims

By ADRIENNE S. BLYTHE

(Dec. 5 2003) MTA's Dave Schlesinger was among members of Mayor James Hahn's Crisis Response Team who were honored by the City of Los Angeles, recently, for providing on-scene crisis intervention services to victims and families.

Schlesinger, a Metro Green Line rail equipment maintenance supervisor, has been a member of the volunteer team for about two years now.

"I have always had a passion for safety and crisis management, which is the core mission of the team," he says. "After September 11, 2001, I was compelled to do something that would positively impact my community."

His training and experience with the Crisis Response Team (CRT), combined with his previous work as a member of MTA's accident response team, has given Schlesinger the patience and the knowledge to help others through serious and stressful incidents.

Schlesinger says being a member of CRT has helped him grow personally and professionally. "I have more patience with my children now because I know that something may happen at any moment. I also have greater appreciation for my family and my health."

"When I am at work, I am more aware of potential hazards," says Schlesinger. "I have a keen sense of whether or not my work environment is safe, which is one of the most valuable things that has come out of being part of CRT."

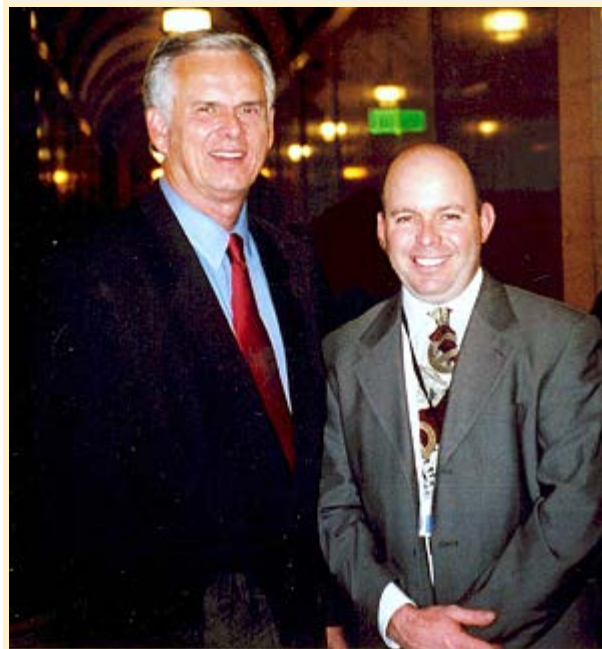
Handling the Calls

Schlesinger has responded to all types of calls. The most common include homicides, such as drive-by shootings, traffic accidents, and suicides.

"The most rewarding calls are always the ones that involve children," he says. "These are usually the hardest as well, especially when they have lost one or both parents, but I try to relate to them using what I have learned from my own children."

CRT is comprised of 80 individuals who are dedicated to helping others. They are on-call 24 hours a day and are alerted, by pager, when there is an incident. The volunteers in the program are activated directly by the City of Los Angeles Police and Fire departments. On average, the team receives 50-60 calls per month.

Mayor Jim Hahn congratulates Metro Green Line rail equipment maintenance supervisor Dave Schlesinger, a member of the Mayor's Crisis Intervention Team that provides on-scene crisis intervention services to victims and families.



CRT Manager Jeff Zimmerman presents honors, shown below, at City Hall ceremony.

As a back-up manager an average of once a month, Schlesinger is responsible for assembling a team within 30 minutes of a call, but this is usually no problem.

"Everyone on the team is great," he says. "Some of the best friends I have are from the team because we share a special bond when we deal with tragic situations together."

[Back to MTA Report](#)

