



2023

ANNUAL REPORT



MISSION:

CONFRONTING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN MCHENRY COUNTY



www.turnpt.org

A Message from the Director

Sarah J. Ponitz



Greetings everyone! We have had a very exciting year at Turning Point. We have been able to bring to fruition several service enhancements which will help us navigate our increasing client numbers. For one, Turning Point has secured an agency vehicle to provide transportation for clients to, for example, medical or court appointments. With one employee covering the shelter, there has been no possibility of a staff member leaving to transport a client to an appointment, or buy groceries for shelter. The acquisition of the vehicle, coupled with increased shelter staffing has already had a positive impact on our shelter clients. Transportation has always been a significant barrier for our clients and we are pleased to be able to address this at last.

This past year we have also expanded our shelter staff to allow for two employees overseeing shelter at all times where previously we had only had one. Additional staff will not only aid in managing day-to-day shelter operations, but it will also allow the shelter to fully operate our 24/7 domestic violence helpline. At present, direct-service staff fill helpline shifts all day, every day and there are stipends paid out during weekends and holidays. Double staffing the shelter allows us to move away from the stipend expense while having more adequate coverage at the shelter.

Turning Point has also revamped our Transitional Housing program in order to accommodate more survivors in need of short-term affordable housing. The agency owns a two-flat residence in McHenry County which has recently been updated and is ready to receive single survivors or small families in need of a fresh start. The intention of the program is to house those who are not quite ready to be on their own and who may not qualify for other housing programs. Though not a new resource, we will now be in a position to help more survivors.

Finally, Turning Point's legal advocacy office at the McHenry County courthouse has been expanded in response to increased demand for services. For years, legal advocacy staff have worked in very tight quarters, trying to assist clients who come in for help with orders of protection while maintaining their privacy. Due to space limitations, clients were required to wait in the hall outside their tiny offices until it was their turn. The office has moved into a more spacious area where legal advocates and their clients have access to a private office at any given time. It is much easier to maintain confidentiality and comfort for all involved.

Turning Point has a talented and creative staff and board of directors whose dedication to survivors of domestic violence never ceases to impress me. In order to provide the best services possible, we require financial support. I hope you will consider Turning Point in your charitable giving plans.

Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at 815.338.8081 or by emailing me at sponitz@turnpt.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "SJPonitz".

Meet Our Board of Directors

Executive Director

Sarah J. Ponitz

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Jill Hunt

Sr. Director, Insights – Encore

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Insurance agent – Neis Insurance

Treasurer

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Abbey Eisenlauer

President, Research and Insights - Conservate Labs

Vanessa Thrombuda

Broker, Berkshire Hathway Strack Relators

Lynn Cowlin

Retired CPA

Susan Heinking

Sr. Vice President - Pepper Construction

Our Programs



24-hour Domestic Violence Helpline

- (815) 338-8081

Safe, Secure 24/7 Emergency Shelter

- 30 to 60 day stay for survivors actively fleeing domestic violence or homeless as a direct result

Individual and Group Counseling

- For children, teens, and adults

Trauma-Based Mental Health Services

- Psychotherapy for victims of domestic violence who have experienced childhood or lifelong trauma and abuse. This is not a free service, fees will apply.

Legal Advocacy

- Assistance filing orders of protection through our remote office at the McHenry County Courthouse.

Partner Abuse Intervention Program (PAIP)

- 26-week psycho-educational program designed to help clients identify abusive behaviors in their relationships and learn new skills to resolve conflict successfully.

Survivor's Intervention Program (SIP)

- Designed for people who have been violent in their relationship but have not been identified as the primary aggressor.

Positive Parenting Interventions (PPI)

- Intended for the treatment and Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect. Sliding scale fees. Court, agency referral, or voluntary.

Outreach and Prevention

- Free presentations on healthy relationships, bullying, intimate partner violence, and Turning Point, Inc. services for children, teens, and adults.



All of our domestic violence services are free and are offered in both English and Spanish

Advocacy

By the Numbers

- **124** Unduplicated Shelter Clients Served
- **1,577** Adult and Child Survivors Served
- **2,250** Crisis and Referral Calls
- **608** Orders of Protection/Legal Advocacy
- **221** Alternatives Program Participants
- **18,924** Outreach Participants



Client Testimonials

There are great, helpful, educated staff and there are ones who make it clear this is not just a job.

My advocate is amazing! She has helped me so much with understanding of what's happening to me and with support and validation.

**Turning Point has helped me see I am worthy of love and kindness.
Thank you for helping me see the truth.**

I felt like I was alone until I found you. Thank you!!

Today I leave shelter a better me. Thanks to all the beyond-amazing staff who helped me along the way! Coming here was truly the best turning point for my girls and I. Thank you.

Thank you for everything. I am going to be better than o.k.

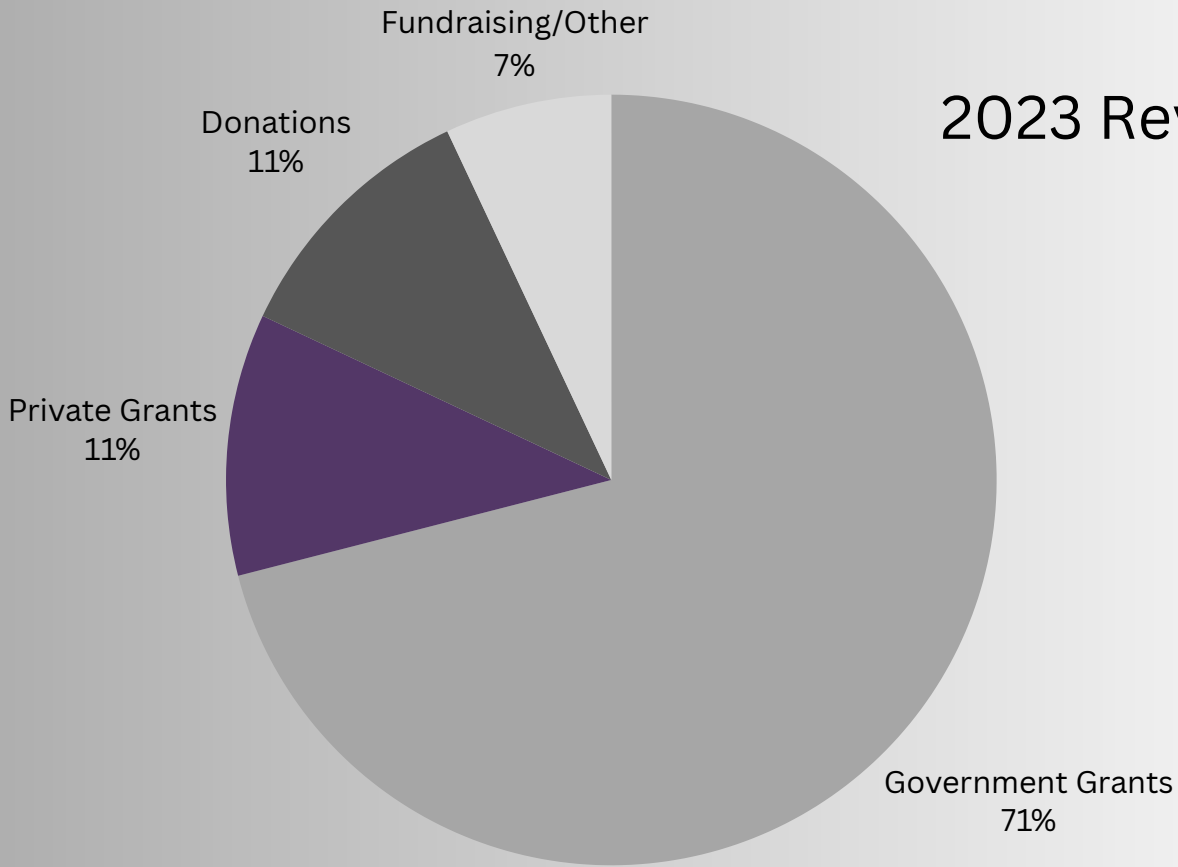
Just knowing that there are other people going through the same thing helps me a lot.



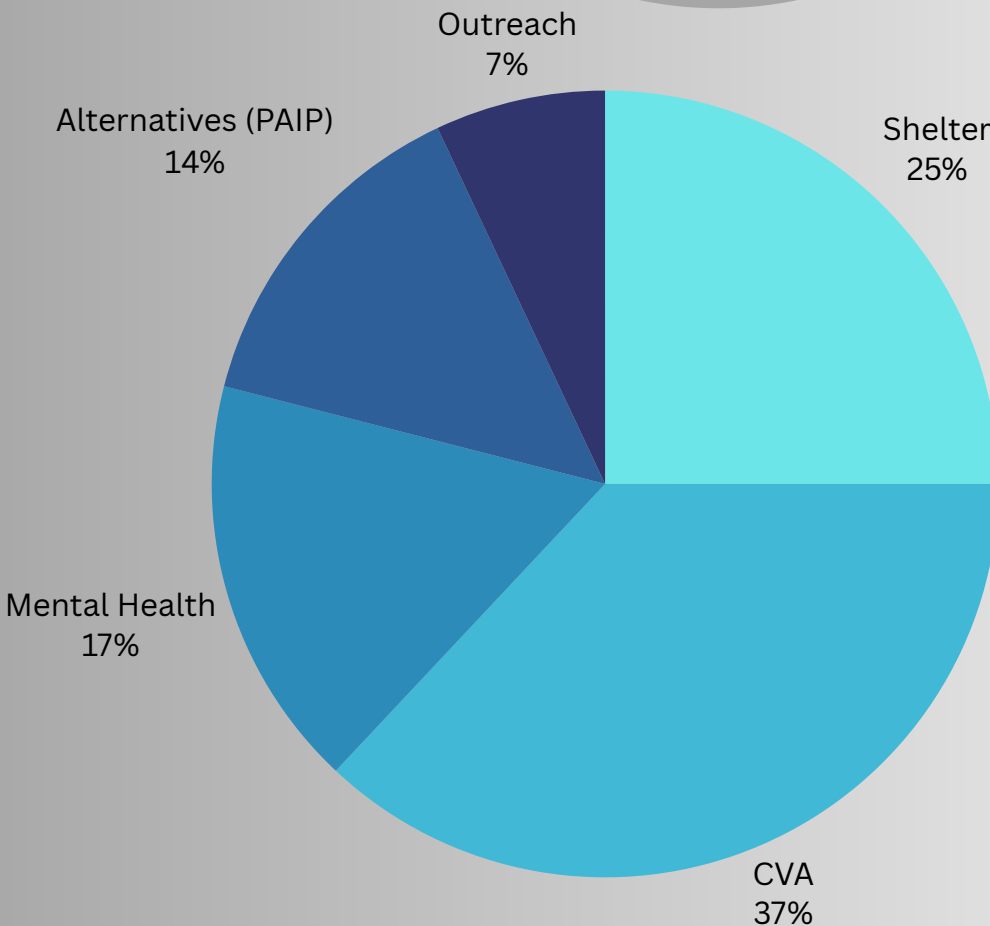
Revenue and Expenses

Financial Reporting Period of July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023

2023 Revenue



2023 Expenses (By Program)

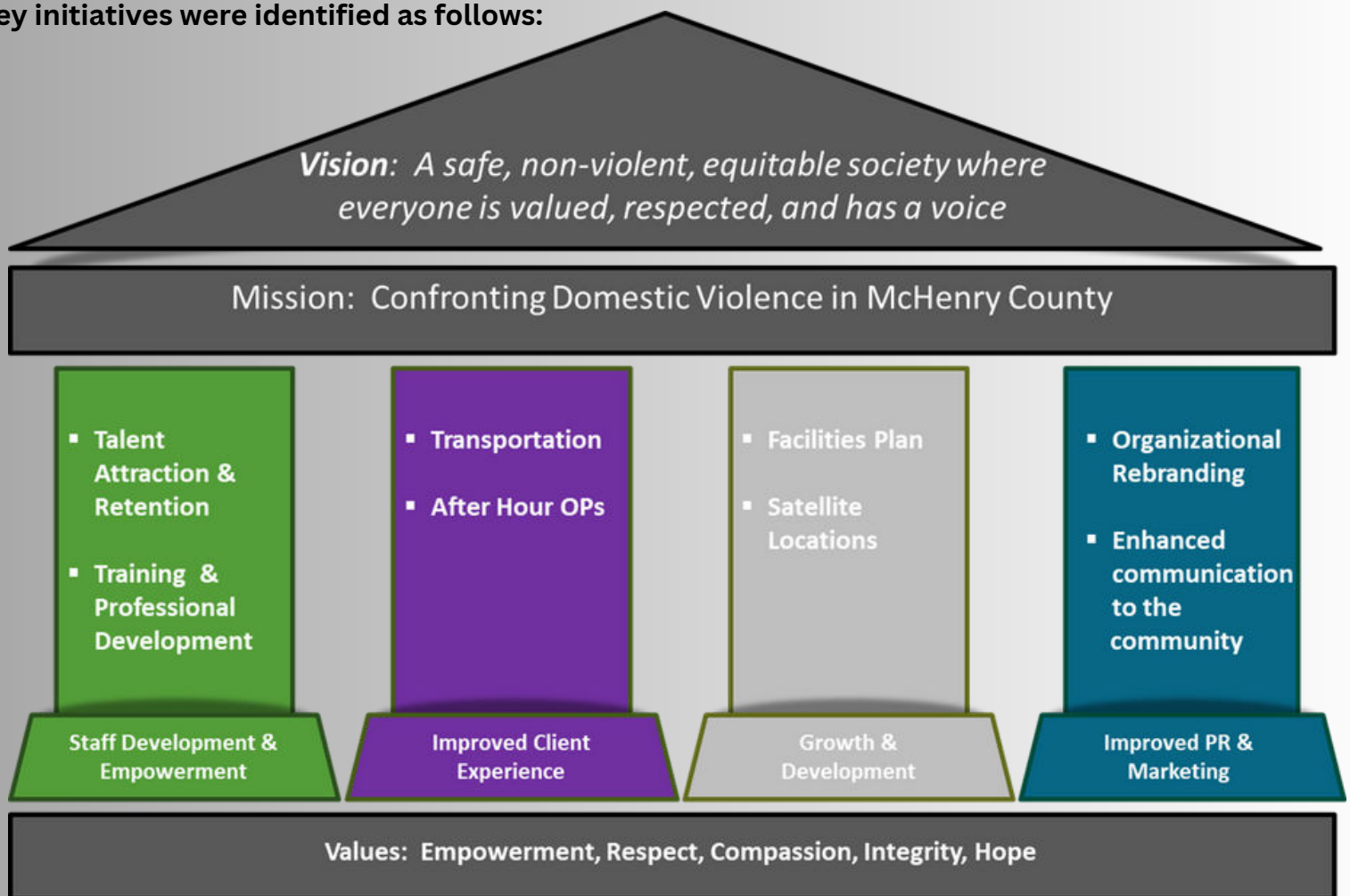


2023-2027 Strategic Plan

The Turning Point, Inc. Board of Directors agreed that it was important for the organization to engage in a formal strategic planning process. Multiple individuals were interviewed and ultimately MRA was selected as a consultant to help guide staff during this process. Key staff and board members were interviewed as well as outside stakeholders from other community organizations, courthouse personnel, judges, the police, city officials and donors.

The primary conclusion from these interviews was that Turning Point does very well in addressing the needs of clients short-term but needs to improve services to address more long-term needs. An internal committee was then formed that included the executive director and supervisors from the development, outreach and the adult domestic violence teams. This committee spent several months, in conjunction with MRA, developing a formal strategic plan for Turning Point that included a strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) analysis.

Key initiatives were identified as follows:



The committee and MRA presented this formal plan to the board on September 24, 2022. During this day-long process, the board also reviewed existing programs and other key initiatives that are currently underway and as a result, these initiatives were not included in the strategic plan.

The board formally adopted this strategic plan on October 27, 2022 and established organizational goals for 2023-2027.

Road to Hope Planned Giving Program

“The journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.”
-Lao Tzu

We now have a *Road to Hope* Planned Giving Program at Turning Point!

There are many different types of planned gifts that you can make that will match your goals. In addition to cash, there are options available that will allow you to support Turning Point and the domestic violence survivors we serve on their *Road to Hope* for generations to come while still providing for you and your loved ones. Your attorney or financial advisor can work with you to meet your goals.

Types of Gifts Include:

- Simple gifts anyone can make through a will or trust
- Gifts that pay income and protect your assets such as a Charitable Remainder Trust
- Gifts that pay you income like a Charitable Gift Annuity and
- Gifts of Assets that can include stock or securities

Please consider Turning Point in your giving plans!

Gifts of \$5,000 or more will be prominently displayed on our *Road to Hope* wall and you will receive recognition on our newsletter and on our website.

For more information, please visit our website <https://turnpt.org/planned-giving-program/>.



Note: This information is not intended as legal, financial or tax advice. For such advice, please consult with your financial advisor or attorney.

Thank You to Our Generous Donors, Grantors and Sponsors

Turning Point never charges for victims' services in conjunction with the Illinois Domestic Violence Act.

Donors and supporters like *you* make our mission of confronting domestic violence in McHenry County a reality. If you're interested in making a contribution or learning more about ways to help in our mission, please contact us below.

Thank you once again for a productive 2023.

We look forward to even greater success in 2024!

815.338.8081 or turnpt.org/donate

