

NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2024



Highlights: Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Throughout the month of October, Turning Point recognized Domestic Violence Awareness month by holding community events, notably our candlelight vigil and film screening, highlighting agency partnerships, and participating in nationwide movements such as #PurpleThursday. But our commitment doesn't end here. Domestic violence isn't bound by a single month—it's a reality that impacts individuals and families year-round.

Finding Hope



Shining a Light on Domestic Violence in McHenry County

On October 3rd, 2024 Turning Point hosted our annual Candlelight Vigil on the Woodstock Square. Nearly 100 community members, supports, and advocates gathered to honor survivors and remember those whose lives have been forever impacted by domestic violence.

Throughout the vigil, we heard powerful speeches from our Executive Director Mary Margaret Maule, Pastor Amanda Bergstrom of Grace Lutheran Church - Woodstock, and two survivors who bravely shared their stories of resilience through their lived experiences with intimate partner violence. Their words resonated deeply with our mission, highlighting both the challenges faced and the strength that has emerged from these experiences.



“ It took a lot of hard work, but looking back, it was heart work. Every step required a strong heart and a strong mind.

— Mary, Former Turning Point Client

Continued...

Why Consider a Qualified Charitable Distribution?

The year end is a wonderful opportunity to gather with friends and family and celebrate the blessings of the year. It is also an excellent time to explore your giving for the year end. Qualified Charitable Contributions provide the opportunity to support Turning Point by using your traditional Individual Retirement Account (IRA) to make a contribution towards the services we provide to survivors fleeing violence and oppressive control.

Making a charitable gift using your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) may be a tax efficient way to support the mission of Turning Point. If you are 70 ½ or older, a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) allows you to maximize your charitable impact while reducing your taxable income. Why consider an QCD? If you own an IRA, you must take a RMD starting at age 73, whether or not you need the funds. When you take a RMD from an IRA, it creates a taxable income. This could potentially shift you into a higher tax bracket and may impact your ability to take certain tax deductions and potentially taxes on your Social Security and your Medicare premiums.

While QCDs aren't eligible for charitable tax deductions, they are not included in your taxable income like other IRA withdrawals are. They do count toward your annual RMD from your IRA. When you use your RMD to make a QCD, your taxable income is reduced dollar for dollar. This approach to charitable giving helps you save on taxes while supporting your philanthropic goals and the critical work of Turning Point.

Highlights: *The Last Drop* film screening



Turning Point, in partnership with McHenry County College and the McHenry County National Organization of Women, presented a free screening of *The Last Drop* on October 24th, 2024 at MCC's Luecht Auditorium.

The short film, written and directed by Adam Joel, highlights the lesser known forms of abuse that can happen before it gets violent. We had over 60 attendees join us in starting the conversation about relationship abuse.



Shining a Light Cont'd...



Additionally, a small art exhibit was on display created by Turning Point's Monday Night Art Therapy group with each piece conveying themes of strength, healing, and hope.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who attended and supported this event, standing together in solidarity.

With the continued support of our community, we can bring light to dark places and foster a world where everyone lives free from violence and fear.

Consider Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs) If:

- You have charitable intentions
- You must take a required minimum distribution (RMD) from your individual retirement account, but don't need all the funds
- You would like to reduce your future RMDs by lowering the balance in your IRA
- You have already donated the maximum allowable percentage of your adjusted gross income (AGI) (60% for most taxpayers in 2023)
- You wish to make a larger charitable gift than is possible by donating cash or other assets
- You'd like to make a large donation immediately, and you've already identified the qualified charities you wish to support

Please consult your Financial Advisor for more details. And thank you for your continued commitment to survivors of Domestic Violence.

“The courage it takes to come here is devastating, but for ONCE there is validation, guidance and coping skills offered versus being minimized and not believed.

— Former Turning Point Client



FROM THE HEART OF 3M

Dear Turning Point Family,



Mary Margaret Maule
Executive Director, Turning Point

As we enter the season of gratitude and giving, I find myself in a place of immense appreciation for the generosity and support we receive for our clients, for our team, and for our mission. Your generosity and continued commitment as donors and community partners is what allows us to meet the ever present need for services and shelter for our clients. Your commitment, advocacy, and shared voices continue to drive our mission forward in such meaningful ways.

As the Executive Director of Turning Point, Inc. I have the honor and privilege to work with a remarkably gifted group of committed individuals who with fearless resolve continue to show up for the women, children and families we serve.

We continue to answer thousands of helpline calls, offer safety to survivors, provide healing from the trauma and disruption of domestic violence. We use our voices through legislative advocacy, outreach and education, and community awareness events to bring the discussion regarding the reality that domestic violence exists in in most communities. That domestic violence exists in *our* community. That domestic violence isn't a "they" problem but a "we" problem. We know that interpersonal violence is preventable. **We know that domestic violence can be stopped.**

Together we can bring this topic out of whispered discussions and closed-door conversations into the light where it can be addressed, acknowledged and healed.

This is our time to tell the truth about who is being affected most, and why.

It is a chance to spotlight the resilience of survivors, and to advocate for the policies that they need and deserve.

Our strategic initiatives are rooted in the understanding of the challenges our survivors face. Currently, our team helps survivors to navigate life beyond abuse with comprehensive case management, counseling, legal advocacy, mental health services and intervention for those who choose to do harm. Annually, we serve over 2,000 men, women and children in our safety net of services. We answer over 250 helpline calls a month. We provide over 5,000 nights of emergency shelter. We touch nearly 18,000 students with education and prevention to paint the picture of healthy relationships and dating safety. We work in prevention, intervention, education, advocacy, counseling, and therapy.

We also provide a gathering space for survivors to grow and learn and laugh and heal.

As we continue evolve, look for additional innovative programming; children's art therapy, writing groups, peer to peer survivors groups, financial literacy and job skills training. These programs will help survivors to heal, to restore their sense of self and empowerment, and to move forward.

Let us work together and raise our voices to change lives and stop abuse before it starts.

Until it stops,

**Turning Point is here 24/7, 365
at 815-338-8081 to support the
needs of our clients.**



P.O. BOX 723
WOODSTOCK, IL 60098

24/7 HELPLINE: 815.338.8081

WWW.TURNPT.ORG

FOLLOW US @TURNINGPOINTDVS



Looking to give this holiday season?



Scan here to be taken to our giving site!

In 2023, Turning Point proudly served 72 families with our holiday programs, and we're looking forward to continuing to grow this effort, bringing even more joy to even more homes.

Learn more at www.turnpt.org/ways-to-give



SAVE THE DATE

Paint the Night Purple

Dinner | Auction | Advocacy

04 | 04 | 2025

Crystal Lake Country Club

Our Services

Turning Point is the only comprehensive domestic violence agency in McHenry County. Our services for survivors include a **24/7 helpline, emergency shelter, individual and group counseling, mental health therapy, children's counseling, and legal advocacy.** Our survivor services are offered at no cost to the community and are available in both English and Spanish.

Our **Alternatives to Violence** programs include our Partner Abuse Intervention Program, Survivor's Intervention Program, and Positive Parenting Interventions program. These programs are open to the community and have sliding scale fees.

Turning Point also offers **Outreach and Prevention** programming to local McHenry County schools and community members.

Our holistic approach ensures that we address domestic violence at every stage—from crisis intervention to prevention—so that we're not just reacting to violence, but actively working to stop it before it begins.

Domestic and intimate partner violence can affect anyone. **Turning Point serves everyone** and we do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, religion, gender, or sexual orientation.

“ Thank you for the support. I did not know how strong I am because my partner always made me believe that I wasn't.

— Former Turning Point Client

I wish I would have found the Turning Point program sooner, given what I had to go through. I thank you for everything, and I thank you for continuing to guide us to make better choices.

Alternatives Program Client —

“ Staying at the shelter gave us structure again, and most importantly, the chance for me to learn to love myself again.

— Karen, Former Turning Point Client

