



*The Period Project donated period care kits to us for the 2nd Time!*



*Woodstock Youth Baseball donated the proceeds from their Penny Wars!*

## FROM THE HEART OF 3M



### It Is Time to Start The Conversation

This year, we are committed to talking openly about domestic violence—to educate, to advocate, and to activate our community. Change begins when we replace silence with understanding, myths with facts, and inaction with courage.

Domestic violence is not just a private matter—it’s a community issue. It affects people of every age, background, and income level. It’s not limited to physical harm; it also includes emotional abuse, financial control, isolation, and other tactics used to gain power over another person.

It’s important to understand: domestic violence is not about anger management or substance misuse. It is about control. Often it is a pattern of coercion and control, with the goal being to dominating another person’s life. While substance abuse or stress may accompany abuse, they do not cause it. Abuse is a choice—one person deciding to exert power over another.

One of the most important steps we can take toward ending domestic violence is education. Too often, myths and misunderstandings keep survivors silent and bystanders unsure how to help. For example, many believe that leaving an abusive relationship is simply a matter of “just walking away.” In reality, the most dangerous time for a survivor is often when they try to leave. That’s why safety planning and access to resources are critical.

Education empowers. When a teacher recognizes the signs of abuse in a student’s family, they can connect them to help. When a friend understands that controlling behaviors—such as limiting someone’s access to money or monitoring their phone—are forms of abuse, they can speak up.

When an employer knows how to support an employee experiencing violence at home, they can provide the time and flexibility needed for court dates or counseling.

At Turning Point, we work to break the cycle through prevention and awareness as much as through direct services. Our community presentations, youth programs, and professional trainings give people the knowledge to recognize abuse early and the tools to respond safely. We also teach about healthy relationships—because preventing domestic violence begins with fostering respect, communication, and equality.

As part of that mission, I’m thrilled to announce that Turning Point will be hosting Dr. Jackson Katz, a world-renowned educator, author, and leading voice in the movement to engage men in preventing gender-based violence. His groundbreaking work has shifted the conversation, emphasizing that ending domestic and sexual violence is not solely a “women’s issue” but a community responsibility—one in which men play a crucial role. This public awareness event will be an inspiring, eye-opening opportunity for our community to learn, reflect, and take action together. More details will be available soon, and I encourage you to join us on October 2 for this incredible opportunity to be a part of the conversation.

You are part of this work. Every time you share accurate information, challenge harmful stereotypes, or simply listen without judgment, you help create a culture where survivors feel supported and abusers are held accountable.

If you’d like to learn more, volunteer, or schedule a presentation for your workplace, school, or organization, please reach out. Together, through education, compassion, and action, we can create a safer McHenry County for everyone.


With gratitude,

**Mary Margaret Maule**  
Executive Director  
MBA, ICDVP

# SAVE THE DATE:

## The Courage to Care

### Featuring DR. JACKSON KATZ




— presents —

## THE COURAGE TO CARE

Learn how the power of compassion can transform the lives of domestic violence survivors and spark change in McHenry County.

### October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025

Smith Central Events | McHenry, IL | 5:30p



#### FEATURING DR. JACKSON KATZ

Jackson Katz, Ph.D., is an educator, author, and scholar-activist who is internationally renowned for his pioneering work and leadership in the global movement of men working to promote gender equity and prevent gender-based violence. He co-founded the multiracial, mixed gender MVP program, the first large-scale GBV prevention initiative in college and professional athletics, and the first system-wide program of its kind in the U.S. military.

Newsletter subscribers will be the first to know when tickets go LIVE so stay tuned for more info about this incredible event!

## Out of the Dark: Summer Educational Series

At Turning Point, we make it our mission to provide quality education surrounding domestic violence. Last week, we wrapped up our "Out of the Dark" event where we had conversations about how Domestic Violence is affected by **Gender Roles**, how it can differ in the **LGBTQIA community**, how **Mental Health** can impact or be an effect from violence, and the concerns surrounding **Technology and Abuse**.

From all of us at Turning Point, we would like to thank you for attending these sessions. Walking away, we hope you have gained some insight on the different ways abuse can occur and how you can prevent it.



**Couldn't attend the series?** No worries! We are hoping to offer a virtual educational series this winter. Stay turned for details.

## Check Out Our Blog

When you visit (turnpt.org), you will see a tab that reads "News & Blogs". Clicking blogs will allow you to read new blogs written by Turning Point staff.

We will be posting the 2nd Wednesday of every month, be sure to follow our social media and check out our website to see the new blog go live!

For the month of August we are highlighting our programs for those who choose harm in their relationships.

### Alternatives to Violence: Supporting Healing and Connection

**August 13, 2025**

Violence, whether it is physical, emotional, or built into our systems, leaves lasting impacts on people, families, and whole...

### What You Should Know About the TAKE IT DOWN Act: New Protections Against Image-Based Abuse

**July 9, 2025**


Imagine finding out that someone shared a private photo of you, without your consent, on the internet. Or worse,...

[READ OUR BLOGS HERE](#)

## Ways to Support Us



Your gift changes lives.  
Help us bring healing within reach.



For many, Turning Point is the first place a survivor feels **heard, safe, and supported**.

We *never* charge for survivor services, but providing them takes a significant investment in our staff and programs. Your gift makes it possible for us to keep showing up, every single day.

[READ OUR SUMMER PROGRAM UPDATE](#)



Grocery store drive at Mariano's in Crystal Lake

[Our emergency food pantries are running critically low!](#)

**How can you help?** Throughout the summer, Turning Point staff and volunteers will be located outside various grocery stores collecting items for donation. Check out our [event calendar](#) for dates (also listed below)

**Can't make it?** Go to our [website](#) to see our ongoing Amazon wish list and pantry needs!

Thank you for your continued support!

La Rosita – Harvard, IL: Sunday, August 17 // 11am-1pm  
Jewel – McHenry, IL: Saturday, August 30 // 10am-12pm  
Jewel (10090 IL-47) – Huntley, IL: Saturday, September 20 // 10am-12pm

[VIEW OUR CURRENT DONATION NEEDS](#)

## Upcoming Events

**Mark your calendars!** We have a ton of events coming up this year especially during October, which is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Be sure to save the dates listed below so you can get involved!

More details to come on our next few newsletters.

- **20 Hour PAIP Facilitator Training: September 9 to 11, 2025**
- **40 Hour Domestic Violence Training: September 15 to 17, 2025**
- **The Courage to Care - Featuring Jackson Katz: October 2, 2025**
- **Domestic Violence Awareness Vigil and Art Walk: October 16, 2025**
- **Save the Date! Paint the Night Purple Gala 2026: February 28, 2026**

[Sign Up for 40 Hour Training](#)

[Sign Up for 20 Hour Training](#)

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.

**FOLLOW US @TURNINGPOINTDVS**



P.O. BOX 723  
Woodstock, IL 60098  
24/7 Helpline: 815.338.8081  
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 **TurningPoint**  
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SERVICES

Turning Point | PO Box 723 Non for Profit | Woodstock, IL 60098 US

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