

Turning Point Newsletter
November 2025

TurningPoint

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SERVICES



Turning Point staff with Dr. Jackson Katz at *The Courage to Care*

FROM THE HEART OF 3M

Dear Friends, Partners, and Community Members,

I woke to a fall chill in the air, and the smell of cinnamon. The season can feel like a hot cup of cider and a warm hug. November- the season of gratitude.

I am reminded that life is a journey of lessons and blessings. Each hardship teaches us something about endurance and compassion, and every act of kindness becomes a blessing that ripples far beyond what we can see. At Turning Point Domestic Violence Services, we are grateful every day for the lessons learned from survivors' strength—and the blessings found in the compassion of those who stand beside them.

This year has brought tremendous uncertainty for so many in our community. Cuts to SNAP and Medicare have left families struggling to meet their most basic needs, while ICE raids and the fear they bring have made safety even harder to find for immigrant survivors. These challenges compound the trauma already faced by those seeking help, and they remind us just how vital our collective support truly is.

Through it all, I have been deeply moved by the dedication and heart of our staff. Every day, they meet survivors where they are—with patience, empathy, and unwavering belief in their capacity to heal. They not only see the survivor, but also the children whose lives are forever shaped by violence and by the hope that follows. Their work helps families find stability, rebuild trust, and rediscover a sense of safety and belonging.



We also know that much of our impact happens quietly, in moments that often go unseen: a compassionate conversation, a shared tear, a word of encouragement, or a gesture of kindness that feels like safety offered just when it's needed most. These moments are where healing begins.

So as we pause to reflect on gratitude this season, I want to thank you—our partners, donors, advocates, and friends—for standing with us. Your belief in Turning Point fuels this vital work. Together, we continue to turn life's lessons into lasting blessings, ensuring that every survivor and every child we serve knows they are seen, valued, and never alone.

In Love and Light,

Mary Margaret Maule
Executive Director

Reflecting on Domestic Violence Awareness Month 2025

Even though **Domestic Violence Awareness Month** has come to a close, we at Turning Point want to thank those that have attended our Courage to Care event, Candlelight Vigil, and took a walk in our "A Walk in Their Shoes" art installation on the Woodstock Square. It is truly empowering to see our community come together for an issue that affects us all.

A special thank you to:

Woodstock Business that participated in A Walk in Their Shoes: Squire on the Square , A New Interiors Anew, Apple Creek Floral, Prairie Community Bank, Madison Street Dental, Artisans on Main Clay worker's Guild, Casting Whimsy, Peacock Shoppe, Warp Corps, Material Things Artisan Market, Down 2 Earth, Anime and Things and Read Between the Lynes

Dr. Jackson Katz: (International educator, author, and activist on gender violence) For being our keynote speaker at The Courage to Care and providing a private training for our staff.

Sue Meier: For making handmade quilted hearts for our Courage to Care Events to hand out to our supporters.

Katelyn Lorenz: (City of McHenry Police Officer and Turning Point Board Member) For speaking at the Candlelight Vigil

Randi Freese: (McHenry County States Attorney) For speaking at the Candlelight Vigil

Maria from Caring Hearts and Voices: For providing music at our vigil for the 3rd year in a row!

Staff and Students at Bernotas Middle School: For wearing purple on wear purple day, hosting a purple ribbon door decorating contest and the Viking Council who raised \$1,000 for Turning Point Services at their October school dance.

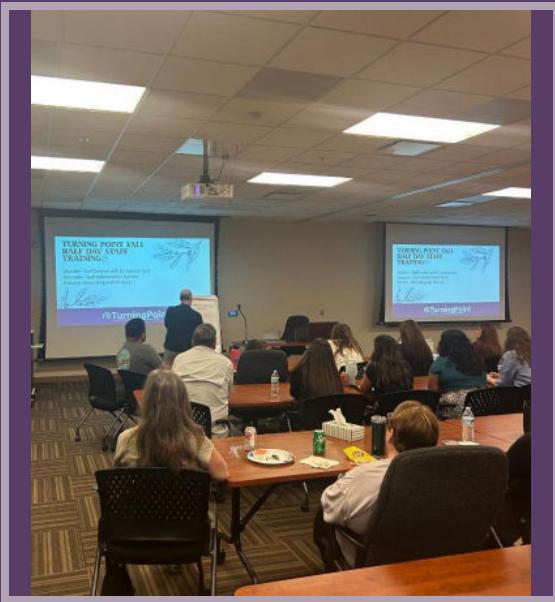
Turning Point Staff, clients, volunteers and board members who support our work during this month and always.

To our Community: We are forever grateful to be supported by a community that cares so deeply about empowering survivors and supporting us year round.

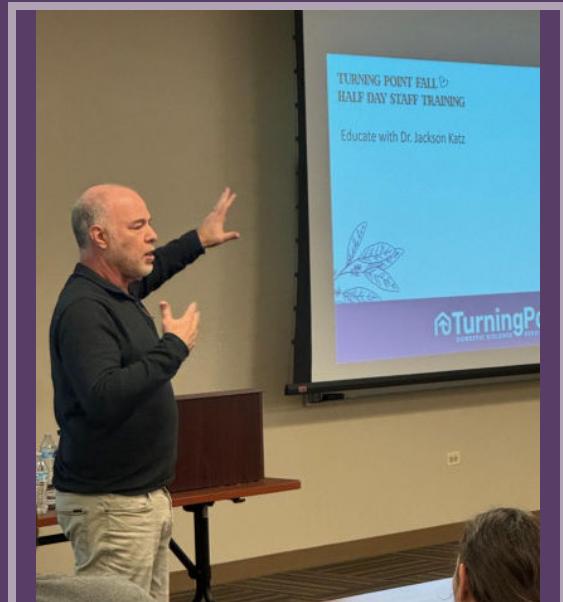
Even though Domestic Violence Awareness Month has ended, that doesn't mean our work ends. If you would like to continue to support our mission, check out the holiday giving program to support survivors during the holiday season.



Turning Point staff on Wear Purple Day 2025



Jackson Katz speaking to Turning Point staff



Jackson Katz speaking to Turning Point staff



Mary Margaret and Jackson Katz at The Courage to Care



A Walk in Their Shoes artwork displayed at Squire on the Square

Volunteers helping check in at the Courage to Care



McHenry County States Attorney Randi Freese speaking at the Candlelight Vigil on the Woodstock Square



Art Donated by Turning Point Client sharing their journey at the Candlelight Vigil



Maria from Caring Hearts and Voices providing music at the Candlelight Vigil



Purple Ribbon contest submission from 6th Grade class at Bernotas Middle School



Bernotas School Staff including Turning Point Heart Award Winner Nicole Thompson wearing purple on wear purple day 2025



Bernotas Middle School Viking Council presenting check to Turning Point Staff

Read Our Blogs

Blogs are posted the 2nd Wednesday of every month, so be sure to follow our social media and check out our website to see when they go live!

For the month of November, we are highlighting **the history of Turning Point**. We will be taking a trip down memory lane as we learn about how we started and where we are at now.

A Look Back at the History of Turning Point

November 12, 2025

When asked to write a piece on the history of Turning Point, my hope was to capture the mindset...

Small Actions, Big Change: From Awareness to Action

October 8, 2025

October Is Domestic Violence Awareness Month: Awareness, Action, and Community Change
October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. But this...

[READ OUR BLOGS HERE](#)

Holiday Giving

As the holiday season approaches, we are looking forward to giving, sharing, and spreading cheer and this year to our clients. We are once again looking to bring a little extra holiday spirit to our mission!

We would like to invite you to join us in making a difference through our Holiday Giving Program by donating gift cards that will be directly distributed to clients this December.



Gift Card Program

Gift cards help us empower our clients to maintain their independence by assisting with the purchase of clothing, household items, medication, birthday gifts, and more.

To donate, please contact Mallory Breutzmann at mbreutzmann@turnpt.org.

[CLICK HERE TO DONATE GIFT CARDS](#)

ACTIVATE

Upcoming Events

Mark your calendars!

We invite you to join us at the **2026 Paint the Night Purple Gala** on Saturday February 28th, 2026



SAVE THE DATE

TURNING POINT PRESENTS
PAINT THE NIGHT PURPLE
SATURDAY FEBRUARY 28TH, 2026
ELARA CONVENTION CENTER

- **40 Hour Domestic Violence Training:** January 12 to 14th, 2026
- **People in Need Forum:** Saturday January 31st 8 am to 1 pm at MCC
- **Paint the Night Purple Gala 2026:** Saturday February 28, 2026
- **20-Hour PAIP Facilitator Training:** March 10th - 12th, 2026

[SIGN UP FOR A TRAINING](#)

[SAVE THE DATE: GALA](#)

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



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