

# Turning Point DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SERVICES

*Confronting Domestic Violence in McHenry County Since 1981*

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## FROM THE HEART OF 3M

Dear Friends,

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month—a time to elevate understanding, challenge harmful narratives, and stand alongside survivors. It is also an important moment to recognize something we see every day in our work: sexual assault and domestic violence are deeply connected.

At Turning Point Domestic Violence Services, many of the survivors we serve have experienced both. Sexual violence is often used as a tool of power and control within abusive relationships. It is not separate from domestic violence—it is part of the same pattern of coercion, manipulation, and harm. In fact, 51% of female victims report being raped by an intimate partner.

Research shows that *nearly 1 in 2 women who experience intimate partner violence also experience sexual violence by that same partner*—a powerful reminder that these forms of abuse are not separate issues but overlapping realities in the lives of survivors. Part of that harm is sustained by the myths we continue to carry.

In conversations about domestic violence, we often hear: *“Why didn’t they just leave?”*

In conversations about sexual assault, we hear: *“Why didn’t they fight back?”*

Both questions place responsibility on the survivor instead of the person causing harm.



Reality is more complex—and more human. Survivors navigate fear, safety, financial stability, children, housing, and the very real risk of escalation. Leaving can be the most dangerous time. Freezing during an assault is a common, involuntary response—not consent. These are not failures. They are survival.

We also hear myths that minimize both forms of violence: Domestic violence only counts when it is physical harm. Sexual assault is committed by strangers. Is it really that bad if there are no marks?

These beliefs give cover to the abuser. They shift the perception. Abuse happens where it can hide and at the hands of someone known and trusted. It includes emotional, psychological, financial, and sexual harm. And its impact is deep, lasting, and real—whether or not it leaves a visible mark.

Together, we can break these myths and bring the conversation into the light. **Denim Day** is one way we can bring the conversation forward and show solidarity with survivors. Denim Day is an annual campaign to protest victim-blaming and support survivors of sexual assault. Wear denim to combat the idea that rape and sexual violence are the fault of the survivors. That a survivor's clothing implies consent. The movement stands as a powerful reminder: **there is never an excuse for sexual violence.**

Wearing denim may seem simple, but it is a collective statement:

We believe survivors.

We reject victim-blaming.

We stand for dignity, respect, and accountability.

But awareness alone is not enough. Real support looks like action:

- Learning how power and control show up in relationships
- Speaking up when harmful language or myths are repeated
- Supporting organizations that provide safety, advocacy, and healing
- Creating spaces where survivors are met with compassion and belief

The work we do is heavy work — but it is also heart work. Every day, we walk alongside individuals reclaiming their voice, their safety, and their sense of self. Healing is possible. And it is strengthened when a community stands together.

This April—and especially on April 29—we invite you to stand with us. Wear denim. Start conversations. Challenge assumptions. And most importantly—hold space for those whose stories deserve to be heard.

Together, we turn awareness into action—and action into hope.

In Love and light,

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

*Educate*

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# **Sexual Assault Awareness Month *Wear Denim Day* | *April 29th***



**Wear Denim Day** is an annual awareness campaign that encourages people to wear denim as a visible show of solidarity with survivors of sexual assault and to challenge harmful myths around consent and victim-blaming. Observed the last Wednesday in April, during Sexual Assault Awareness Month, the day began as a response to an Italian court ruling that dismissed a rape case based on what the victim was wearing.

By joining Turning Point in wearing denim, you are helping us raise awareness and affirm that sexual assault is never the victim's fault, regardless of what someone is wearing.

Post and tag us @turningpointdvs on socials and we will share your #denimday support to our stories!

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**Community Partner Highlight:**  
***Northwest Center Against Sexual Assault***



**Northwest Center  
Against Sexual Assault**

The **Northwest Center Against Sexual Assault** is the only rape crisis center serving the McHenry County area. All of their services are free. They provide crisis intervention through their 24/7 hotline: 888-

802-8890

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# Read Our Blogs

*Blogs are posted by the 2nd Wednesday of every month!*

For the Month of April, we are highlighting  
**Sexual Assault Awareness Month**

## **The Hidden Connection Between Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence**

**April 7, 2026**

When many people hear the words sexual assault or domestic violence, they often picture bruises, broken bones, or...

## **History Intertwined: Women's History Month and Domestic Violence**

**March 11, 2026**

As Spring begins this March, we want to take a moment to recognize Women's History Month. The blooming of...

**READ OUR BLOGS**

Advocat  
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# Turning Point in the Community



# Spring Paper Products Drive!

## When can I drop off?

The drop-off time will be every Tuesday and Thursday from 10:00am-2:00pm through the end of April.

## Where can I drop off?

You can drop off donations at our main campus in Woodstock.

## What do we need?

- Paper towels
- Toilet paper
- Kleenex tissues
- Reams of printer paper

For any questions contact Mallory Breutzmann at [mbreutzmann@turnpt.org](mailto:mbreutzmann@turnpt.org) or call us at 815-338-8081



Scan for ways to give!  
or visit our website  
<https://turnpt.org/ways-to-give/>



24 HOUR HELPLINE: (815) 338-8081 · P.O. BOX 723 · WOODSTOCK, IL 60098 · [TURNPT.ORG](http://TURNPT.ORG)

**OUR WALMART WISH LIST**

# McHenry County Mental Health Board Community Survey

## Share your voice and help shape local priorities.

Take a short, anonymous 5-minute community survey to help identify gaps in mental health, substance use, and developmental disability services. Your input as a taxpayer matters and will help guide future funding and programs.

Survey closes April 15, 2026



MCHENRY COUNTY  
MENTAL HEALTH BOARD



<https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/sv/UW43iyV>

Scan the QR code or use the link to participate.

# Upcoming Events

## APRIL

Community Hub @ Woodstock Library | April 8th - 1:30pm - 3:30pm

McHenry County College Wellness Fair | April 22nd - 10:30am - 2:00pm

Storytime @ Algonquin Eastgate Library | April 14th - 3:00pm - 4:00pm

## MAY

40-Hour Domestic Violence Training | May 11th - 13th

Storytime @ Algonquin Eastgate Library | May 12th - 3:00pm - 4:00pm

Community Hub @ Woodstock Library | May 13th - 1:30pm - 3:30pm

## JUNE

20-Hour PAIP Facilitator Training | June 23rd - 25th

## 2027

Paint the Night Purple | April 10th, 2027

**SIGN UP FOR A COMMUNITY TRAINING**

## About Us

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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.

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## FOLLOW US @TURNINGPOINTDVS



P.O. BOX 723

Woodstock, IL 60098

24/7 Helpline: 815.338.8081

[www.turnpt.org](http://www.turnpt.org)

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