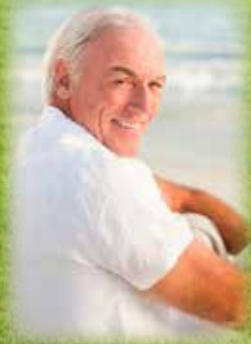




TurningPoint
of Lehigh Valley

YOU ARE
NEVER ALONE



2014 - 2015
ANNUAL REPORT

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“Your counselor was there for me when I had lost all hope. She was a real life saver and I’ll always be very grateful that she helped me gain the strength I needed to move forward in my life.” -- Jacob



“I cannot thank the staff of the TPLV Safe House enough for providing shelter for me and my three children this holiday season. I was in a very unsafe situation and had nowhere to go. Turning Point was there and helped me get back on my feet and start anew.” -- Christine

OUR MISSION IS TO:
eliminate domestic violence in the Lehigh Valley through
empowerment, education, and engagement.

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In 1995, some of you reading this may not have yet been born. A gallon of gas cost just over \$1; a stamp cost only \$.32. EBay and the DVD were brand new, and your cell phone (if you were lucky enough to have one) likely came in a large bag and charged you a per minute fee that rivaled your rent costs on a monthly basis.

In 1995, Megan's Law was passed, OJ Simpson was acquitted of murdering Nicole Brown Simpson, and the first STOP Grants were offered under the newly enacted Violence Against Women Act. In this same year, the FBI's Crime Stats showed that among all female murder victims, 26% were known to have been killed by male intimate partners. One in four women and 7% of men reported being physically assaulted or raped by a current or former intimate partner.

Twenty-one years ago, I started my career in victims' services at a domestic violence and rape crisis program in central PA. From counselor to director, I became immersed in the tragedies and joys involved with helping victims transition to survivors. I helped manage programs at the state level for several years at the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency and during the last 10 years I have gained invaluable knowledge of the community resources available here in the Lehigh Valley. I now am thrilled to "return home" once again, this time returning to victims' services, where I hope my experiences can benefit the people who need Turning Point.

As happy as I am to be joining the staff and volunteers of Turning Point, I am troubled. I am troubled that the national stats in 2015 are the same as in 1995: a generation later, 1 in 4 women, and 7% of men in opposite-sex relationships will still experience severe physical violence during their lives by an intimate partner. We know that persons in same-sex relationships may experience even higher rates of violence in their lives, with 40% of men identifying as gay or bisexual experiencing intimate partner violence.

Do these numbers trouble you as they trouble me? Are we resigned to this fate as inevitable for our daughters and sons? We have made great strides over the past 20 years in so many areas, but we need to call out this epidemic of violence. Domestic violence is a crime committed by a person against others; it's not a "personal matter" or "family business." Like all crimes, partner violence has real costs to us all; we need care. Like any crime of power and control, it can only exist in an environment of secrecy or tolerance.

You are still reading this because you care. We need you to be part of the solution. What can you do? Spread the word about Turning Point; volunteer your time, expertise and/or resources; commit to naming acts of power and control so they can no longer plague our society.

I look forward to working with you to create a safe, peaceful and just future for our friends, families, and neighbors!

In peace,

Lori Sywensky
Executive Director



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

- Donors and sponsors enjoyed our Champagne & Chocolate Fundraiser, May 7th at the Banana Factory. Net proceeds: \$23,000
- The Annual Candlelight Vigil took place October 15, 2015, with more than 100 in attendance.
- Provided Prevention Education to more than 3,500 school children in the region

ANNUAL APPEALS

Mother's Day: \$9,773

Summer: \$11,510

Holiday: \$21,741

Turning Point has provided domestic violence services in the Lehigh Valley for 37 years.

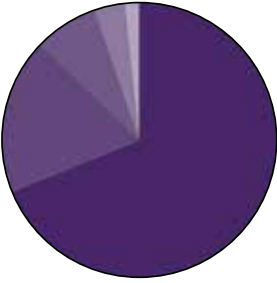
We are a member in good standing of the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence.



We are also a United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley partner agency.

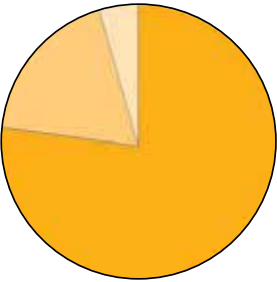


FINANCIAL DATA / 2014 - 2015



OPERATING **REVENUES**

- Government:** \$1,184,059 **71%**
 - Private Donors:** \$251,245 **15%**
 - United Way:** \$116,092 **7%**
 - Foundations:** \$100,512 **6%**
 - Other:** \$25,514 **1%**
- TOTAL: \$1,677,422**



OPERATING **EXPENSES**

- Program Services** \$1,137,795 **74%**
 - Administrative & General** \$333,442 **22%**
 - Fundraising*** \$58,725 **4%**
- *Includes a portion of Development Director's salary.*
- TOTAL: \$1,529,962**



PROGAMS AND SERVICES

Turning Point provides a variety of services to victims of abuse, their children, and the local community. All services are confidential and free-of-charge.

HELPLINE

Our 24-hour confidential helpline is a resource for victims as well as family and friends of victims. It is available for people who have questions about domestic violence or need immediate assistance. Turning Point responded to 1,373 Helpline calls during the 2014-2015 fiscal year. HELPLINE: 610-437-3369

EMPOWERMENT COUNSELING

Turning Point counseled 2,578 individuals last year. We offer individual and group counseling to victims of domestic abuse, as well as to family and friends of victims. Counseling is available in both English and Spanish. Support groups are offered for all ages.

SAFE HOUSE/SHELTER

Turning Point housed 2,302 clients during 2014-2015. We operate an emergency safe house for women and children in immediate danger who need a safe place to stay. Victims may stay up to 30 days while accessing other resources.

COURT ADVOCACY

We help domestic violence victims with Protection from Abuse orders and other legal issues as they seek justice through the court system.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Turning Point visits schools, community organizations, and churches each year to teach people about domestic violence, the impact it has on families and communities, and how to spot the warning signs of an abusive relationship.

PREVENTION PROGRAMS

Prevention Educators work with children and teens, teaching them about the characteristics of healthy relationships and the red flags of unhealthy ones.

MEDICAL ADVOCACY

Our Medical Advocate provides training to health care workers on how to assist victims of domestic violence who may come under their care.



“I was terrified to face my abuser in court when I went to seek a PFA (Protection From Abuse order). A Turning Point rep advised me in advance and stood by my side to make the whole process easier. I appreciated it so much.”

-- Carol

MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to express our deepest appreciation to Lori Sywensky, TPLV[®] new executive director. Lori's talents and experience are valuable assets to our agency and we look forward to a bright future with Lori as our leader.



As partners with us in the community, we invite you to share in the positive outcomes of the past year.

- We made upgrades to the security and hospitality of our Safe House and partnered with local police departments to reduce the number of fatalities due to partner violence.
- TPLV reached out to school children with programs on respect and supported adolescents with information and education on healthy relationships.
- A woman and her small children entered the Safe House in fear, and left to join extended family where they can maintain safety and the new beginnings they were able to find with us. She is one of 2,302 new clients to receive support services through shelter and counseling. In the past year, we supported 119 children who arrived in confusion and exited safe and secure.
- Clients who may have hearing disabilities may now receive counseling from our staff using an interpreter in Sign as they put together a safety plan for moving forward.

These accomplishments are not signs that we have completed our work, but rather indications of what is yet to come. We continue to look for new and improved ways of providing services, based on your feedback, the needs our clients bring us, and through our involvement with the community. We are aware that we are as dependent on those partners and on your support as we are on our own internal resources for planning.

We will continue to speak publicly about issues of partner abuse and advocate on local and state levels. More than ever, we recognize the interdependence of community efforts for the well-being of children and adolescents to maximize their safety and achieve a hopeful future.

Thank you for the privilege of leading this organization through change and growth. Also, I thank you for your continued support of TPLV.

Sincerely,

Keely Collins
Board President



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Joan Marcus - Vice President
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Thomas Domin - Treasurer
Kristopher Rooney Debby Patrick
Alexis Kainz Miki Weaver
Sharon Pratt Rev. Donald Hayn
Lori Sywensky - Executive Director



Abuse may be verbal, physical, emotional, sexual, or economic.
An abused person may be male or female, gay or straight, of any age, race, class, culture, religion, or occupation.

If you know someone who needs assistance with a domestic abuse relationship:

24-Hour Helpline: 610-437-3369

Toll-free: 877-438-4957

444 E. Susquehanna Street / Allentown, PA 18103



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