



ISSUE 14 · JUNE 2020

TURNING POINTS

News and Updates from Turning Point of Lehigh Valley



Turning Point
of Lehigh Valley

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS!!!

The first half of 2020 has been far from what anyone would have expected. We are proud to have been quickly able to adapt our services to virtually meet the needs of our clients and the community during this time. We have been attending Zoom hearings for those seeking protection orders, transitioning our individual and support group counseling to the virtual Doxy.me platform, providing items needed to our clients in hotels which includes phones and laptops so we can keep offering support, helping to find apartments for several people so they could transition to permanent and safe housing, and providing trainings virtually so we can continue to educate the community, and so much more.

Thank you to our amazing community members, volunteers, and supporters who have made this transition possible. You donated and delivered food & supplies, offered monetary gifts & gift cards, and offered encouragement during these extraordinary times. Amid the stay at home order, the silver lining to COVID-19 has been the response from the community asking, "How can I help?" and "What do you need?"

One of our biggest costs since mid-March has been an increased in unforeseen hotel costs to house our clients during the pandemic. We are spending an average of \$4,000 per week in hotel costs due to social distancing precautions. We expect these costs to continue throughout the summer as we make sure people can stay safe not only from abuse, but also the pandemic.

Some of the generous funding that we have received during the pandemic:

- \$15,000** - United Way of Greater Lehigh Valley COVID-19 Response Fund
- \$7,000** - Emergency Grant Funding from the Pennsylvania Housing Alliance
- \$1,000** - COVID-19 Relief Grant from Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce Foundation
- \$1,000** - Northampton County Medical Society Alliance Inc. Grant to support a new partnership with Shanthi Project to offer new Mindfulness programs

Thank you to those who donated to our latest appeal. With your help, so far we have raised \$26, 103.80 in which will continue to help survivors of domestic & intimate partner abuse.

SURVIVOR SPOTLIGHTS

"Good morning. Saw your post through McCall Collective and promptly made my donation/order. Wanted to send a quick note of gratitude to your organization.

My mom set me up with an appointment at Turning Point when I was in an abusive marriage, undocumented at the time, and with two children. I was at my lowest — feeling utterly defeated and hopeless.

Your organization not only made a path to citizenship possible, but also provided me a way to leave my ex-husband by giving me the tools I needed to plan and execute my escape.

Since then, I've graduated from college and now have an amazing career, I've successfully won custody of my two children, and finally have my green card on my way to citizenship.

I don't know that I'll ever be able to express how much your organization has impacted my life or how much this has all meant to me. All I can say is thank you from the bottom of my heart. THANK YOU." - Andrea

From an email that we received on a former client who generously donated back to Turning Point through a local fundraiser hosted by the McCall Collective Brewing Co. that raised a total of \$2,813 for Turning Point of Lehigh Valley. We are immensely grateful to her and Founders/Co-Owners, Kaitlin and Chris McCall.



Survivor *Spotlight*

"She saved my life. If it wasn't for the angel on the other end of that phone, I would be dead."

- Current Client

24/7 Helpline: 610-437-3369
www.turningpointlv.org

WAYS TO GIVE

INDIVIDUAL MEALS

Purchase individual meals for \$5, which includes breakfast, lunch/dinner, and 2 snacks. They are delivered to our clients in Lehigh & Northampton counties.
www.kremmerscommunitykitchen.com/turning_point.html

AMAZON WISH LIST

Order online and ship directly to us
<http://a.co/7ELN1iS>

GIFT CARDS

\$25 gift cards for Giant Food, Target, Walmart, Weis Markets, and Visa

MONETARY DONATIONS

One time and monthly donations can be made through our website
<http://www.turningpointlv.org/how-you-can-help/donate/>

FACEBOOK FUNDRAISER

Create a fundraiser

Please note: All gift cards, checks, or items can be mailed or dropped off to Turning Point of Lehigh Valley, 444 E. Susquehanna St., Allentown, PA 18103.

"Hope these donations help those in need. Thank you for the work that you do to help keep people safe."

- Amazon wishlist donor from an employee at

 **Guardian**[®]

www.turningpointlv.org
24/7 Helpline: 610-437-3369

JUNE IS PRIDE MONTH

Since 1969, June has been the month to celebrate those who identify as part of the LGBTQ+ community. It is a time for recognizing the struggles and triumphs of the community and is typically celebrated with large parades in major cities across the United States. Since COVID-19 has eliminated the ability of large groups of people to gather, our community partner, Bradbury-Sullivan LGBT Center will be holding PRIDE virtually this year. In the Lehigh Valley, Pride in the Park has been held annually for the last 27 years since 1993! Be sure to follow their social media for updates!

Adolescence has always been a time for self-discovery, and LGBTQ+ teens are exploring their identities and orientations as well during this time. Coming out can be the scariest thing a teen will do, and they can experience a lot of negativity – from being ignored or ostracized to violence. Even the people they hold close can sometimes turn their backs on them.

LGBTQ+ youth often have struggles with acceptance from peers, family, and the public. This can lead to feeling isolated and trying to gain acceptance from anywhere they can, including from abusive people and others who don't have their best interests at heart.

Here are some abusive behaviors that can be experienced by LGBTQ+ youth:

- Being told they can't experience dating abuse because they are LGBTQ+.
- Being "outed" by a partner against their will (emotional abuse).
- Abuse (physical/sexual) targeted at parts of the body where the person experiences dysphoria.
- Being told that their identity isn't real or valid.
- Feeling that reporting the abuse will harm the LGBTQ+ community.
- Being isolated from already small LGBTQ+ communities.

Learning about how to protect LGBTQ+ teens and respond appropriately to their experiences of abuse will help to set teens up for a healthier future. Studies show it takes only one supportive adult in the lives of youth that are LGBTQ+ to lower the risk of suicide and other mental health concerns. Be the adult that an LGBTQ+ teen in your life can talk to!

Working to eliminate domestic and intimate partner abuse

 Turning Point
of Lehigh Valley

Providing inclusive empowerment services to ALL survivors of domestic and intimate partner abuse in the Lehigh Valley.

Services are confidential and at no cost.

24-Hour Helpline: 610-437-3369

www.turningpointlv.org