



# Advocacy In Action

November 2022 Newsletter - News and Updates from Turning Point of Lehigh Valley

## Be the Key to Change

Last month we were grateful to once again hold our Annual Candlelight Vigil as part of our Domestic Violence Awareness Month activities. Nearly 150 members of the community joined us at the Charles Chrin Community Center in Palmer Township. This year's theme, Every1KnowsSome1, highlighted how directly or indirectly, domestic and intimate partner abuse affects us all.

We are extremely thankful to the efforts of our volunteers who continue to make this event so impactful. Opening up the vigil program was a heartfelt performance by Dina Hall, who has been a longtime supporter who shares her experience and talents to help survivors. One by one each of the three survivor speakers, who are part of our Turning Point Mentors program, bravely shared very personal and emotional details of their abusive relationships, their ups and downs, and their path to healing. Everyone could relate to something that was talked about and there were a few common threads heard throughout all of their stories. We are greatly inspired by and indebted to Vanessa Vicario, Carmen Ortiz, and Vicky Alercia for having the courage to share their experiences so they could be a source of strength for others.

As the evening came to a close, the room was united for a candlelight vigil. The candles were lit row by row from front to back to the sound of a single drum signifying the number seconds another person is assaulted by a partner – 1 every 7 seconds. We remembered those who have lost their lives to domestic and intimate partner abuse and reflecting on how each of us could be the key to change in someone's life and in our community.

In addition to sharing their stories, we are grateful to Vicky for supplying homemade chocolate ribbon lollipops that helped to raised \$262. Vanessa and her mother, Joelene DeFranco, created a community art project that had decorative keys where attendees could share encouraging messages on the branches so other survivors could read the messages, feel supported, and loved. In addition, canvases with painted survivor artwork was displayed showing one survivor's healing journey and many survivors throughout the year shared their feelings and experiences so we could again share the T-Shirt Project and Empty Place at the Table displays with the community.

In addition to our staff members who help plan this event with our Mentors, we appreciate Girl Up from Lafayette College and Sigma Gamma Rho from Lehigh University for their assistance in making the night impactful and WFMZ, The Morning Call, and Lehigh Valley News for joining us in getting the message out to others. For all those who could join us, please remember that for each survivor, there was someone who believed them, listened to them, and didn't judge them. They were a key to change and our hope is you can be that key, too.

In Peace,

Lori Sywenksy, Executive Director



24/7 HELPLINE 610-437-3369



# How Can You Be a Key to Change?



## BECOME A MENTOR


You can make a difference and inspire our community. Opportunities may include but are not limited to, creating artwork that shapes your experience, speaking at events or to other survivors, reaching out to legislators, assisting with our annual vigil, and more. If you are interested, learn more about our [My Turning Point Mentor Program](#) and ways that your experiences can empower others.

## HELP A FRIEND OR LOVED ONE

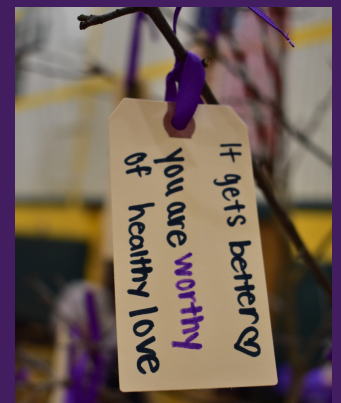
You can play an important role in helping a friend, co-worker, neighbor, or family member that is being abused by an intimate partner or somebody they are dating. Learn the facts about domestic violence and ways you can help or support a friend. Offer your support and love without judgement or pressure so that they don't have one more person in their life telling them what to do. Offer our information in case they would like to speak to an advocate: 24/7 Helpline 610-437-3369 or [www.turningpointlv.org](http://www.turningpointlv.org).

## GIVE A GIFT

We know that it takes someone who wants to get out an abusive relationship an average of 7 times of leaving and returning before they leave for good. Financial abuse occurs in 99% of domestic violence cases and is one of the most common reasons that individuals stay in or return to their abusive relationships.

You can help to be the change with ongoing support so we can continue to be a beacon of hope to those who are trapped and have financial barriers. Every type of support helps and there are many [Ways To Give](#) whether it is a one-time or a monthly recurring gift, an employee matching donation, purchasing gift cards, sponsoring our auction, or shopping on our [Amazon Smile Wish List](#). 

## Community Art Project from the Vigil



24/7 HELPLINE 610-437-3369





## Board Member News and Updates

### Best Wishes

Thank you to Cheryl Arndt for her dedication to serving on our board of directors. We are wishing her the best of luck in her new role at The Leonard Parker Pool Institute for Health.

### Welcome

At our Annual Meeting on October 4th, we were very pleased to welcome the following new Members to our Board of Directors:

**Meghan Baker:** Lehigh University, IS Analyst – Development and Alumni Relations

**Joan Holtman:** St. Luke's University Hospital and Health Network, Senior Director, Primary Care

**Michelle Laureano Roque:** Mujer Lehigh Valley La Revista, Director

**Marissa LaWall, Esq.:** Pennsylvania Health Law Project, Supervising Attorney

**Rebecca Mutchler:** Magellan Healthcare, Sr. Director Business Development–Clinical

**Kayla Schubert-Wirth MSW, LCSW:** Grit & Grace Psychotherapy, Owner & Psychotherapist

**Sean Wacker:** Gallagher, Area VP – Benefits Consulting

Be sure to follow our social media throughout the upcoming months as we highlight each new member.

## View our 2021-2022 Annual Report

We are excited to share with you our 2021-2022 Annual Report. Our dedicated team of advocates has been hard at work this past year as we are passionate about the daily work that we do. As we celebrate our successes, know that our eyes are already to the future as we focus on planning new and innovative ways to continue to meet the unique needs of victims and survivors in the Lehigh Valley.

To view the full report, go to:  
[bit.ly/TPLV\\_FY21-22](https://bit.ly/TPLV_FY21-22)

### IMPACT OF OUR WORK

Despite the ongoing pandemic, we were able to meet our goals and objectives for the year. **In particular, the need for us to provide trauma-informed services that empower domestic abuse survivors has increased significantly.** While we initially thought this increased demand was temporary, our service numbers continue to be much higher than our FY19-20 numbers. **Last year, we helped a total of 3,548 survivors and their families.** We recognize that the most significant factor for these increased statistics is our agency's overall commitment to offering client-centered, low barrier, and trauma-informed services.



24/7 HELPLINE 610-437-3369



# Ways to Get Involved and Give Back

## Eventbrite

Visit our Eventbrite page to view our current community presentations and trainings. Register for any that interest you, invite a friend, family member, or co-worker to join you to learn something new.

[bit.ly/TPLVEventbrite](https://bit.ly/TPLVEventbrite)

## 2022 HOLIDAY GIFT CARD DRIVE



### The Spirit of Empowerment

#### 2022 Holiday Gift Card Drive

Give the gift of empowerment this holiday season.

Giving a gift card that allows survivors to shop and pick out just the right gift is truly giving the gift of empowerment. It may seem impersonal, but it is deeply meaningful to hundreds of survivors who have been trapped financially or made to feel powerless by their abusers. When you give them a chance to shop and make their own choice, it is a huge step in the healing process to regain their sense of control and freedom. The joy and inner strength that comes along with a survivor being able to choose the perfect gift for their own child(ren) is priceless. With your help, you can make the holidays a little brighter and for someone this year.

The Holiday Gift Card Drive runs from November 1-December 19.

Amazon, Giant, Target, Walmart, Wawa, Weis, Wegmans, and Visa  
(Amounts of \$25 and \$50 are preferred.)

You can drop off (Monday-Friday, 8:30am-4:30pm) or mail or your gift cards to:  
Turning Point of Lehigh Valley, 444 E. Susquehanna Street, Allentown, PA 18103.

#### Have questions? Contact:

Leah Triber at 610-797-0530, ext. 234 or [leah@turningpointlv.org](mailto:leah@turningpointlv.org)  
Andrea Search at 610-797-0530, ext. 229 or [andreas@turningpointlv.org](mailto:andreas@turningpointlv.org)

For more information visit: [bit.ly/TPLVHoliday](https://bit.ly/TPLVHoliday)

Learn about other ways  
to give on our  
[WAYS TO GIVE PAGE.](#)

## GIVING TUESDAY

The countdown is on to the biggest celebration day of generosity worldwide! Save the date for Giving Tuesday on Tuesday, November 29 2022! Everyone has something to give and every act of generosity counts.

## VIRTUAL SPRING AUCTION

Can you believe our 3rd Annual Virtual Spring Auction is right around the corner? Show your support and make a difference as a community partner and commit to sponsoring or donating towards our auction. Visit our auction website for more information. Together we can do more. [bit.ly/TPLV2023AUCTION](https://bit.ly/TPLV2023AUCTION)



EVERY1 KNOWS SOME1

THIRD ANNUAL  
VIRTUAL SPRING  
AUCTION

SAVE THE DATE!  
MARCH 3-10, 2023

Interested in donating or sponsoring?  
[BIT.LY/TPLV2023AUCTION](https://bit.ly/TPLV2023AUCTION)



24/7 HELPLINE 610-437-3369





t h a n k y o u

## Thank You to Everyone Who Raised Awareness and Funds for DVAM 2022!



Social Still "Army of Allies" Drink



Alpha Chi Omega raised \$554.40!



'SAFE' Candle for DVAM

Alpha Chi Omega at Muhlenberg College  
Alpha Sigma Tau Alum  
Blue Lotus Tattoo  
Cedar Crest College Psychology Class  
Cynthia from Csent2U Creations  
European Body Concepts  
Five Maidens Cider Company  
Guardian Life  
Liberty High School Feminist Union  
Little Worker Bee Co.  
Northampton Area High School Women's Empowerment Club  
Radiant Beauty • Love your Glow  
Roasted  
Southside Arts District  
Social Still Distillery  
South Sixth Jewelry  
The Flying V  
The Foundation  
Wind Creek Bethlehem  
Victoria Alercia

Consider becoming a monthly donor by visiting our donate page  
by scanning the QR code or going to [turningpointlv.org/donate](https://turningpointlv.org/donate).



24/7 HELPLINE 610-437-3369

