



Advocacy In Action

January 2023 Newsletter - News and Updates from Turning Point of Lehigh Valley

Ambitious Plans for the New Year

For more than 40 years, the employees, volunteers, and supporters of Turning Point of Lehigh Valley have dedicated significant time, energy, and compassion to help survivors of abuse here in our community. Those of us doing this work today are appreciative of the efforts of those who came before us, and we take seriously our role as torchbearers to ensure Turning Point is here for those who may need us in decades to come.

To that end, I am proud to introduce Turning Point's Strategic Plan: 2023-2026. You will find an ambitious set of goals that help improve the services we offer today and help us meet the growing demand by embracing the theory of change. Those involved in developing the strategies rose to the challenge to ensure that all of our efforts will equally address four underlying principles: they center survivors, they consider the impact on our employees' wellness, they advance justice, diversity, equity, & inclusion, and they are trauma-sensitive.

In addition to the strategic initiatives outlined in the plan, we are also introducing the agency's new Mission Statement and Core Values, which serve as a compass to define who we are and how we want to get there as we move forward. This plan also includes our new Vision Statement - A community in which all relationships are safe, respectful, and equitable, where all people can live and thrive. We recognize that we may still have a long way to go to achieve our mission, but each day we can individually and collectively move the ball forward and get us a bit closer to this Vision.

There are dozens of people who generously offered their time and expertise in order to create this plan. I am grateful to the many survivors and community partners who provided candid and comprehensive input through participation in surveys and focus groups. I am thankful to the staff and Board members who go above and beyond to make sure we are continuously improving. I am indebted to the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence and to the many, many generous supporters who contribute to Turning Point. Together, we combine forces and resources to do what once seemed impossible. Lastly, thank you to Anne Turner for her guidance and her patience; she reminded us to, "Trust the process," and we are very pleased with what her process helped us produce.

And thanks to you for your interest in Turning Point's work to empower survivors. We look forward to including you in our efforts over the next three years to eliminate domestic and intimate partner abuse in the Lehigh Valley through survivor empowerment and community education and engagement.

In Peace,

Executive Director

[CLICK TO VIEW OUR](#)



Turning Point
of Lehigh Valley

2023
-
2026

THREE YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN

EMPOWER

EDUCATE

ENGAGE



24/7 HELPLINE 610-437-3369



Stalking Awareness Month

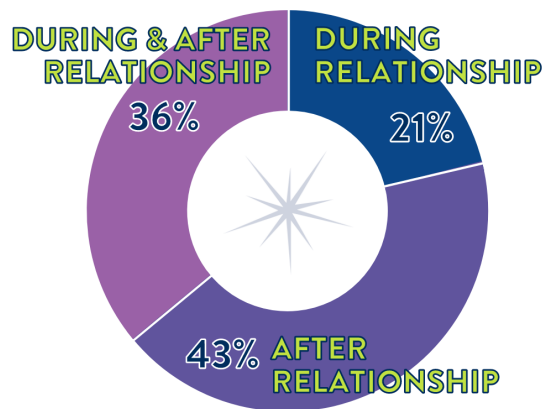
January is recognized as National Stalking Awareness Month. We know that stalking is something many survivors and victims of domestic and intimate partner abuse may go through as a result of their abuser's pattern of power and control. Stalking involves a pattern of harassment or threatening tactics used that is both unwanted and causes fear or safety concerns.

It can take place before, during, and/or after a relationship often intimidate and terrorize former and current intimate partners. The vast majority of victims know their stalkers- 42% are acquaintances and 40% are current or former intimate partners as found in the [2022 The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey \(NISVS\)](#). As a result, many stalking victims have a wide variety of fears and unrelenting suspense in which they experience anticipatory fear, which is the dread of not knowing what will happen next.

The hypervigilance that often results can be deeply traumatic and significantly impact their daily lives. In a [2019 U.S. Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Statistics, Special Report, Stalking Victimization](#), it was noted that 78% of stalking victims take some kind of protective action such as: blocking unwanted calls and/or messages, changing their personal information, changing their day to day activities, taking security measures, and applying for a protection from abuse order.

You can find more information and resources through [Stalking Prevention, Awareness, & Resource Center \(SPARC\)](#).

When does **STALKING** take place (in an abusive intimate partner relationship)?



SPARC

Tjaden, P. & Thoennes, N. (1998). Stalking in America: Findings from the national violence against women survey (NCJ169592). Washington, DC: National Institute of Justice CDC.

STALKING VICTIM FEARS

(VICTIMS STALKED BOTH IN-PERSON AND THROUGH TECHNOLOGY)



Truman, J.L., & Morgan, R.E. (2022). Stalking Victimization, 2019. Washington, DC: US DOJ, Bureau of Justice Statistics, Special Report.

Stalking Series

Have you heard of or seen the new 2022 Netflix Series, [I AM A STALKER?](#)

This popular Netflix series highlights the terror that stalking victims experience as well as the challenges of holding offenders accountable.



Trigger Warning: The cases and interviews in this series illustrate some critical points about stalking and stalking behaviors. As a result of watching this, it might be difficult for some viewers and may trigger viewers with similar experiences. We are here 24/7 if you need to speak with an advocate: 610-437-3369.

"I think he was stalking me because he saw me as a possession. I was his. He had total control over me." Angelyn (Episode 1)

"It's the fear of the unknown. We didn't know where he could pop up." - Maria (Episode 3)

"...around month two or three, things did become a little more controlling. It would be, 'call me when you get here, call me when you get here, text me when you get there,' and that was overbearing for me. Like, I don't want to check in with you every time I make a move." - Charmeka (Episode 7)



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Together We Can Do More

We are so thankful for the outpouring of support and generosity we received this holiday season. There was hardly a moment that passed where we didn't have a community member dropping off presents for the children and youth at our Safe House, delivering everyday essentials for survivors moving out into their apartments, or surprising us with gift cards for our Annual Spirit of Empowerment Holiday Gift Card Drive.

This year's gift card drive was a major success and helped our clients at Safe House and in the community enjoy the holidays with their families. Through the support of our community, we raised an astonishing **\$11,170** amount in gift cards that helped:

- To give the opportunity for a mother to choose the perfect gift for their child.
- Lift the financial burden during the stressful holiday times.
- Help families to purchase groceries to cook a holiday meal.
- Ensure they had enough gas to drive to run errands or go to a doctor's appointment.

Giving Back to Survivors

We want to give a huge shout out to our friends at Virginia E. Holland Chapter #86 Order of Eastern Star for taking some time out of their busy holiday schedules to come visit us at our administrative building. It was nice to take some time to update them on what we have been up to at Turning Point, how they have been, and discussing our current needs. These wonderful civic and church leaders also donated \$250 to help with our emergency services and programming for survivors and their families across the Lehigh Valley.



Turning Point's Andrea Search, Director of Advancement and Board Member Rebecca Mutchler pictured with members of Virginia E. Holland Chapter #86 Order of Eastern.

We appreciate their generous support and continuous dedication to our mission to eliminate domestic and intimate partner abuse in the Lehigh Valley through survivor empowerment and community education and engagement.

Spirit of Empowerment



Members of the Lehigh Wheelmen Association pictured with Turning Point's Executive Director, Lori Sywensky. The group collected \$1,000 worth of gift cards.



Our Child and Teen Advocacy Director, Braley, and Housing Advocacy Director, Rachael, holding toys from the Toys For Tots Drive.



Thank you to the generosity of the Bethlehem Police Department for making sure the kids at our Safe House had a very merry day!



Thank you to More Miles Automotive, Lehigh Valley with Love, and the community for helping to raise over \$1,400 for Turning Point at the 2022 Christmas Tree Toss for Charity!



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Ways to Get Involved and Give Back

Mark Your Calendars

Our Third Annual Auction goes live starting on Friday, March 3rd

Our Third Annual Virtual Spring Auction opens Friday, March 3rd and will run through Friday, March 10th. This year, we have one of a kind gateway packages and experiences for you to bid on. Are you interested in sponsoring or donating a gift card, experience, or item to the auction? You still have time! The deadline to be a part of the auction has been extended to Friday, January 20, 2023.

Visit our auction website to tell us you want to sponsor or donate or to register early:

[BIT.LY/TPLV2023AUCTION](https://bit.ly/TPLV2023AUCTION)



EVERY1KNOWSSOME1

THIRD ANNUAL VIRTUAL SPRING AUCTION



ALL PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT

TURNING POINT OF LEHIGH VALLEY

**AUCTION OPENS
MARCH 3-10, 2023**

Register early by visiting the link below

[BIT.LY/TPLV2023AUCTION](https://bit.ly/TPLV2023AUCTION)



Volunteer with Us

Learn more about our volunteer opportunities and how you can help.

Consider becoming a Turning Point volunteer and help us provide services to survivors and their families in the Lehigh Valley. We have a need for volunteers to help with answering our 24/7 helpline, supporting our residents in the Safe House, assisting with after school activities and homework help for children. There are also opportunities for service projects for larger groups, especially businesses looking to pay it forward.

Please visit the [volunteer page](#) on our website for more information.

Amazon Smile Wish List

Shop Our Survivor Wish List Today

Click the link below to help fulfill a survivor's wish today from our updated Amazon Smile Wish List! All items are shipped directly to our administrative building.

<https://bit.ly/tplvamazonsmile>



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Thank You to Everyone Who Has Donated to our Holiday Appeal So Far!

Stuart and Vikki Abernathy
Alan and Marsha Abraham
Amanda Alleman
Rachael Andrews
Linda Arra
Asbury United Methodist Church
Asbury United Methodist Women
Marsha Baar
Jessica Ballas
Marnie and Wayne Barefoot
Ronald and Linda Barnes
Bath Supply Co., Inc.
Dallas and Karen Bauer
Brittney Beiler
Susan Berman
Janet and George Bickford
Susan Blasco
B'nai Brith Allentown
Tenants Organization
Cheryl Bohannon
Mary Bongiorno
Joan Boreen
James and Catherine Brockington
Ziona Brotleit
Justin Bukowski
Theodore and Barbara Burger
Sharon Ann Burns
Jodie and James Butz
CarrieAnn Cameron
William and Crystal Casteel
Stacey CDP
College Hill Presbyterian Church
Katie Collins
Glenn and Dorothy Coon
Jacque Cooper
Lee Daignault
Stephen and Jennie Danner
Davison & McCarthy
James and Jacqueline Deiter
Robin and James Dillon
Kevin Dolan
Donna Doll
Norma and Thomas Dutt
Ebenezer United Church of Christ
Nathan and Ingrid Eckhart
Nora Elaasser
Marilyn and Henry Farabaugh
Julie Faria
Evelyn Festante
Marlene and Richard Feulner
Five Maidens
Dawn L. Hughes and Frank E. Chisesi
George and Judith Arancio
Foundation Trust
GFWC PA Nazareth Woman's Club
Dennis and Nancy Giangulio
William and Marlene Gieske

Diane Gilroy
Timothy and Ilia Goetz
Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
Susan Graham
Robert and Donna Grimes
Joanne and David Gulya
Christy and Tyler Harper
Fred Harvey
HindlePower Inc.
Nancy and Bill Holbrook
Becky and Chris Houser
David Howell
James Harlan Construction
Annamarie Jordan
Jordan Lutheran Evangelical
Jordan United Church of Christ
Debra Kabrich
Martha Kahan
Noelle and Paul Keeler
Joana Kelly
Phyllis Kempf
Kelley and Mark Kenney
Joyce Klein
Home Association 345 Knights
of Columbus
Ellen and Jay Kolb
Scott Korin
Kuhnsville Car Wash
Domestic Relations Section
Lehigh County Courthouse
Lehigh Valley Decorative Painters
Raymond and Barbara Leshar
Gregory and Camille Llewellyn
Nancy Lloyd
Jim and Sherri Ludlow
Elizabeth Marcon
Jennifer Marton
Jane Masters
Matt Kush Foundation
James Maxson
Catherine McCafferty
Donald and Laurie McIlmurray
Donald and Lucille McNellis
Monica Migliaccio
Lisa and James Mikitka
Donald Miles
Barbara Miller
Anne Miller
Rill Ann and Steven Miller
Jennifer Moore
Moore Township Lioness Club
Foster Morgan
Morningstar Living
Anthony and Sara Muir
Rachel B. Osborn and Nicholas Butterfield
M. A. Nord
Samuel Norwood

Olexa Family Foundation
Lauren Ondra
Harry Orbann
Dr. Robert and Kathleen Oriel
Pards Against Sexual
Assault (Lafayette College)
Linda Plunkett
Quanex Foundation (Allentown location)
Mrs. Henry Raab
Kathy G. Rambo
Kathryn Ramsdell
Raymond James
Mary Jo and Ron Reed
Laurie Rex
Guinevere Ritter
Kenneth and Kimberly Ritter
John and Rev. Edith Roberts
Rebecca Robinson
Louis Molnar and Sally Campbell
Roxanne Scheidt
Susan Scheirer
Lynn Scherb
Terry Schettini
Judy and Rick Schimmel
Schuler Service, Inc.
Suzanne and Joseph Seem
Elizabeth and Harry Sheather
David H. Sheffield
Ann Snyder
Margaret Spesia
St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
St. John's Lutheran Church
St. Stephen's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Barry and Rebecca Stephens
Lana Suter
C. Burke and Patricia Swan
Cindy and Karl Swankoski
KDG The Kyle David Group
The Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit
The Ryan Family Foundation
The Zieff Family Fund
Yvonne Transue
Robert and Karen Uhl
Renie Unger
Virginia E Holland Chapter # 86
Donna Waldt
Diane Warner
Carol Watters
Bob and Bobbie Weaver
Maureen and Todd Wendling
Deborah and Lester Wenger
Wheels of Time Street Rod Association
Marshall and Kay Wolff
Eric Wolfgang
Pauline Worman
Joseph and Patricia Zajac



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