April is National Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM). All across the world, domestic violence and sexual assault agency’s will be educating their communities on the dynamics and consequences of sexual assault and engaging community members in events to highlight SAAM. SAAM began in the late 70’s in England when a group of women outraged at the violence they were encountering while out at night coordinated the first Take Back the Night (TBTN). Over time, organized awareness events like TBTN spread all over the world and men joined the movement as well. The 1980’s brought with it increased interest and activity on the domestic violence awareness front, but sexual assault advocates pushed for a time that would specifically bring sexual assault to light. Initially, one week in April was selected but advocates routinely scheduled programming throughout the entire month. Finally, during April of 2001, SAAM was observed nationally for the first time and teal was adopted as the official color.

Turning Point participates in TBTN events around Metro Detroit, including this year’s event hosted by Marygrove College and the SASHA Center. In addition, Turning Point displays beautiful handmade survivor quilts at various locations in Macomb County, speaks at city council and township meetings and is benefitted by many third party events during the month of April. Turning Point is working hard to raise awareness about the truths of sexual assault.

In January, 2014, The White House Council on Women and Girls reported interesting information regarding the crime and victims of sexual assault as follows:

Women and girls are the vast majority of victims: as noted, nearly 1 in 5 women has been raped in her lifetime.
Men and boys, however, are also at risk: 1 in 71 men – or almost 1.6 million – have been raped during their lives.
Women of all races are targeted, but some are more vulnerable than others: 33.5% of multiracial women have been raped, as have 27% of American Indian and Alaska Native women, compared to 15% of Hispanic, 22% of Black, and 19% of White women.
Most victims know their perpetrators: 51% of female victims were raped by a current or former intimate partner, and 41% were raped by an acquaintance. Stranger rape, in contrast, accounts for 14% of the total. Of men and boys, 52% report being raped by an acquaintance and 15% by a stranger.

Repeat victimization is common: over a third of women who were raped as minors were also raped as adults.
The majority of perpetrators are male: 98% of female and 93% of male rape survivors report that their assailants were male.
Young people are especially at risk: nearly half of female survivors were raped before they were 18, and over one-quarter of male survivors were raped before they were 10.

These numbers don’t begin to tell the whole story. Survivors often suffer in silence, fearing retribution, lack of support, or that the criminal justice system will fail to bring the perpetrator to justice. They don’t tell of the physical, emotional and psychological scars that a victim can carry for life. They don’t speak to the betrayal and broken trust when the attacker is a friend, a trusted colleague, or a family member. And they don’t give voice to the courage of survivors who work every day to put their lives back together.

Turning Point’s services for sexual assault survivors in our community range from 24-hour crisis intervention to our First Responder and Forensic Nurse Examiner Program. In 2013, Turning Point’s forensic nurses performed 212 evidence collection kits. Turning Point believes that education is the key to prevention. Last year, Turning Point’s Prevention Education Program reached nearly 7,000 youth in Macomb County. Through this program, students learn that abuse is never the survivor’s fault, they learn skills to develop equal and respecting relationships, how to be a responsible bystander and how to help a friend.

Please visit our website to see the calendar of events. Join us to put an end to sexual assault in our communities.
The Board of Trustees and Turning Point staff cordially invite you to the

2014 Spirit of Leadership Awards

Thursday, May 15, 2014
10:30 am – 2:00 pm
Zuccaro’s 46601 Gratiot Ave,
Chesterfield, MI • 586.949.4110

Registration and Networking, Exhibitor Marketplace
10:30 am – Noon
Lunch, Awards & Presentations
Noon – 2:00 pm

Proceeds to help victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

TOP TEN NEEDS LIST

• African American hair products
• Bras – all sizes
• High efficiency (HE) laundry detergent
• Car Seats
• Strollers
• Baby Monitors
• High Chairs
• Gas Cards and Bus Passes
• Women’s and children’s underwear – all sizes
• Children’s and Teen Clothing (tee shirts, hoodies, jeans, shorts) – all sizes

Turn your taste into a trend and join us in honoring Jackie Bobcean, Handbags of Hope; Sarah E. Lee, Lee-Ellena Funeral Home; Pastor Roger Facione, Mt. Calvary Church; Special Guest: Mark Hackel, Macomb County Executive; Guest Speaker: Kym Worthy, Wayne County Prosecutor; Emcee Sandra Ali, Channel 4 WDIV.

PURCHASE TICKETS AT:
http://tinyurl.com/mzyarl9

Take this opportunity to recognize an everyday woman in your life. Nominate an unsung hero for the Everyday Woman Award in Macomb County! We want to hear about her and recognize her. The winner will join us on May 15, 2014 to receive her special recognition during Turning Point’s Spirit of Leadership Awards Luncheon.

* Applications are online at www.turningpointmacomb.org.

HOW WE SPEND YOUR MONEY

FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES

- Management and General (14%)
- Special Events (3%)
- Programs and Services (83%)

Turning Point’s mission is to provide programs and resources that enable victims/survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault to regain control of their lives.