



FALL 2016

Points OF Interest

The Newsletter for Friends of Turning Point



ONE WOMAN'S JOURNEY

Jane sits in front of a computer browsing through photos of her wedding. She smiles, somewhat reluctantly, and admires her beautiful dress. She was so happy that day. Her eyes settle on an image of her mother, and she begins to cry. She can feel the distance between them. It has been almost two years since her wedding in Nigeria, and her journey to the United States when she was excited and hopeful about their future. What Jane didn't know is that in the two years that followed she would be faced with violence, manipulated with threats and terrorized in her very own home. She was to be a survivor of domestic violence and she would use every ounce of her strength to regain control over her life and her children.

The day that Jane decided to leave her home was the day that her husband refused to take her to an immigration interview – an important step toward obtaining a Green Card. They had a fight in their kitchen that left her with a black eye and torn clothes, and she feared that if she stayed he would make it impossible for her to become a permanent resident. Jane was six months pregnant and her one-year old son was born in the United States. Her biggest fear was that she would be deported without her babies. The local police, who responded to her 9-1-1 call, took Jane and her son to Turning Point's shelter. There she gave birth to her second child, alone with no family but shelter staff and residents.

With her immigration status in limbo, she was faced with a particular set of barriers, all of which created numerous obstacles with regards to the services she could receive. Her cash assistance through the Department of Human Services (DHS) was calculated only for her son, as this service does not include undocumented residents. She does not drive and can't apply for a driver's license until she obtains a work permit.

She was to be a survivor of domestic violence and she would use every ounce of her strength to regain control over her life and her children.

She is not able to work without a work permit, and her low socioeconomic status drastically limits her options for legal representation. Amidst all of this, she is rendered homeless and not even sure how to begin the process of piecing her life back together again. Her husband kept her in the dark at home. She never opened mail, never paid a bill, never drove, and so being on her own was a huge change, compounded by the trauma that had gotten her there and language barriers.

Shelter staff connected Jane to housing and the Community Advocacy Program (CAP). The CAP advocate followed her in a journey, riddled with barriers, to support her and assist her in executing her plans. The bond that was formed between them from the very first meeting was essential, and Jane's trust in the advocate and the advocate's respect for her was vital to their success. CAP usually provides 12 weeks of advocacy and support for families

leaving shelter. This was expanded to 24 weeks for Jane. CAP is an evidence based support program that was the subject of a research project between MSU and Turning Point. Advocates provides support for families leaving shelter often at the survivor's home as they begin to rebuild their lives after leaving shelter. This is a very vulnerable time; many survivors face homelessness and poverty and return to their abuser.

In the twenty-four weeks that Jane had access to the CAP program at Turning Point, she was able to overcome countless hardships. She applied for and received a work permit and was approved for her Green Card. She accessed financial support through the Department of Human Services and obtained a Bridge Card for food assistance. She was able to access a pro bono lawyer, who offered guidance and support through custody battles and divorce. She was able to rebuild her connections to outside friends and family. Currently, Jane is applying for jobs and keeps a driver's training book by the lamp in her apartment. The CAP advocate became a passenger on her journey. She now has control over her own life. Most importantly, it's a life without violence.

Last year the Community Advocate Program served 64 survivors including Jane. This year with additional funding from (VOCA) Victims' of Crime Act, additional staff and interns were brought on board to expand the program serving more families post shelter.



Points of Interest

FALL 2016

The Newsletter for Friends of Turning Point



I HAD FUN AT THE ZOO

"I had fun at the zoo. I don't open up to new people well and the ladies in the children's department made it easy to feel like myself. I'm glad we got into Turning Point because my mom and us are now safe. WE are finally happy again. Thank you" – SHANE

The above is a note from Shane one of the 30 children in shelter this summer to participate in SAFE camp (Safe Active Fun Experiences). Because of generous donors such as the Mount Clemens Rotary, Detroit Industrial Schools and MGM Mirage Voice Foundation children in shelter got to spend the majority of their day in the community experiencing new places to go, and seeing new places like the zoo, having fun at dance lessons at Arthur Murray Sterling Heights, jumping at Bounce House and swimming at Metro Beach.

Kids also participated internet safety sessions, healthy relationships, safety planning and domestic violence prevention groups. Their summer ended with a Lemonade Stand where the kids developed a business plan that included budgeting, marketing and sales. They did well! Each of

them earned \$54.00. Most decided to save their money but one child gave it to his mom who he said needs the help.



For many children this was the first time they were able to explore their community and learn about arts and cultural institutions.

Thank you to our donors who turned a summer of uncertainty and fear for these children into memories of safety, discovery and fun!

LEGACY GIFTS

Remembering Turning Point in your will can help you reduce estate taxes and ensure the life changing work you care about will always continue.

CALENDAR of EVENTS



TARA'S WALK

October 1
Freedom Hill
10am-1pm

CRAFTIVISM

October 11
Grace Episcopal Church
6:00-8:00

CALIFORNIA PIZZA KITCHEN

October 19
Partridge Creek • All Day

ALEX & ANI

October 19
Partridge Creek
6:00-8:00

For more information on any of these events please visit our website www.turningpointmacomb.org or find us on –



SERVICES TO END DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE

158 S. MAIN ST.

MT CLEMENS

100 WOMEN WHO CARE

We are very excited to announce a very generous gift to support Turning Point's Prevention Education by a local women's philanthropic group, "100 Women Who Care"! Board member Leslie Sheidler, a member of this group spoke on behalf of Turning Point and the need for funding Prevention after cuts by the State of Michigan caused a reduction in staffing. This program is critical to our mission. Teens are the most a risk group for sexual assault and dating violence. This program talks with

youth at Jr and Sr high schools about healthy relationships, what consent means, coercion, how to be an active bystander and connects youth struggling with these issues to services. In 2015 we provided 406 workshops to 6,289 students in nearly every district in the county, but had to turn away many others requesting these services. This gift will allow us to add an additional staff person and reach more youth this year. For more information about the impact of Prevention Education please visit our website at – <http://turningpointmacomb.org/resources/educational-presentations>