



FALL 2018

# Points of Interest

The Newsletter for Friends of Turning Point



## I AM THE “LUCKY PERSON”

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Sharman Davenport, and I am the “lucky person” that Sue Coats mentioned in her farewell message. As the CEO of Turning Point, I have the wonderful opportunity to lead Turning Point and the community’s next steps in the fight to end domestic and sexual violence. I feel honored and humbled to be given this opportunity and am up to the challenge.

For over 30 years, I have been committed to helping individuals and families to heal and overcome the trauma they have experienced. I have been dedicated to ending the generational cycle of violence, dysfunction, poverty and homelessness. I believe that through support, understanding and empowerment individuals are able to heal and regain control of their lives.

In my short time at Turning Point, I have discovered several significant facts: the “amazing staff” that Sue Coats bragged about does exist; the programs and services do meet the needs of the clients/survivors; and the Prevention Education Program does provide rays of hope for the future. These are all wonderful discoveries for a new CEO. I am very impressed with this agency and the impact it has on the community.



*The new CEO of Turning Point, Sharman Davenport.*

I can also see the great potential that Turning Point’s Prevention Education Program has on changing the society in which we live. Their presentations in schools and the community reach a large audience and give us the opportunity to educate youth about domestic and sexual violence, give youth a voice and an avenue to speak out about their own challenges, and ultimately it begins the process that stops society from looking away while others are mistreated, abused, and violated. Staff encounters individuals who have experienced domestic or sexual violence and are able to provide them an avenue for help. For others, we are providing awareness and

education. These conversations often lead individuals to develop a more in-depth understanding of domestic and sexual violence and provide the catalyst for them to personally take a stand against it and join in the struggle.

I hope that we can continue this fight against domestic and sexual violence together. If you would like to request a speaker to come to your school, office, or community group to talk about domestic and sexual violence, please contact Tonya Womack (for schools) or Sara Dobbyn (for all other groups) at 586-463-4430.

**OCTOBER IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH**

FOR A FUTURE WITHOUT DOMESTIC OR SEXUAL VIOLENCE



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## VAWA OR OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT

The Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (VAWA) is a United States federal law. The Act provided \$1.6 billion toward investigation and prosecution of violent crimes against women, imposed automatic and mandatory restitution on those convicted, and allowed civil redress in cases prosecutors chose to leave un-prosecuted. The Act also established the Office on Violence Against Women within the Department of Justice.

The Violence Against Women Act was developed and passed as a result of extensive grassroots efforts in the late 1980s and early 1990s, with advocates and professionals from the battered women's movement, sexual assault advocates, victim services field, law enforcement agencies, prosecutors' offices, the courts, and the private bar urging Congress to adopt significant legislation to address domestic and sexual violence. One of the greatest successes of VAWA is its emphasis on a coordinated community response to domestic violence, sex dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking; courts, law enforcement, prosecutors, victim services, and the private bar currently work together in a coordinated effort that did not exist before at the state and local levels. VAWA also supports the work of community-based organizations such as Turning Point, that are engaged in work to end domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking; particularly those groups that provide

culturally and linguistically specific services. The Violence Against Women laws provide programs and services, including:

- Federal Rape Shield Law
- Community violence prevention programs
- Protections for victims who are evicted from their homes because of events related to domestic violence or stalking
- Funding for victim assistance services, like rape crisis centers and hotlines
- Programs to meet the needs of immigrant women and women of different races or ethnicities
- Programs and services for victims with disabilities
- Legal aid for survivors of domestic violence

Turning Point receives a great deal of funding from this act. Without the funding that comes from this, Turning Point and many other support organizations, would shut down or dramatically cut services. This funding is critical to the mission of Turning Point. Every 5 years it comes up for renewal by Congress. It has passed every time with bipartisan support. There is a concern that renewal may be a challenge this year. We urge you to call/write or email your Congress people and ask that they support the renewal of this important piece of legislation. Finding whom they are and how to reach them is as simple as going to <https://www.contactingcongress.org/> and typing in your zip code.

## THE CLOTHESLINE PROJECT

Every Fall Turning Point takes the Clothesline Project out into the community. The Clothesline Project originated with 31 shirts in Hyannis, Maine in 1990 through the Cape Cod Women's Agenda. A small group of women, many of whom had experienced violence in their own lives, designed the monument to help transform the staggering statistics about violence against women and children into a powerful, educational and healing tool. They decided to use the clothesline after discussing how many women in close-knit neighborhoods have traditionally exchanged information over backyard fences while hanging the laundry out to dry. Besides laundry is traditionally "women's work" and the adage of hanging "the dirty laundry out to dry" still holds true as violence feeds on silence. These women wanted to "air out" that violence against women and children should not be happening in the very places that they should feel safe. The project's goal is to break the silence around domestic violence by giving a voice to survivors and victims. Since 1990, hundreds of Clothesline Projects have emerged nationwide and abroad, resulting in tens of thousands of t-shirts designed by



both survivors and those who have lost a loved one. The Clothesline Project is a visual display that bears witness to violence against women and children. The T-shirts are hung to:

- Honor survivors and memorialize victims of domestic violence.
- Help the healing process of those whose lives have been affected.
- Educate, document and raise society's awareness about the crimes of violence.
- Provide a network of support, encouragement and information for other communities as they begin their own projects.
- To affect change in the communities where the Clothesline Project is displayed.
- To give a voice to those who may have lost theirs.

## CALENDAR of EVENTS



### TARA'S WALK

September 22  
Freedom Hill  
10am-1pm

### CALIFORNIA PIZZA KITCHEN (All Day) ALEX & ANI (6-8pm)

October 2

Partridge Creek

### MOVIE SCREENING – “WHAT DOESN'T KILL ME”

October 11

Emerald Theater • 7pm

### THRIVE CONCERT

October 13

Loving Touch • 7pm

### CRAFTIVISM

October 23

Grace Episcopal Church  
6-8pm

For more information on any of these events please visit our website [www.turningpointmacomb.org](http://www.turningpointmacomb.org) or find us on –



Instagram@TurningPointInc



Find us on Facebook!  
Turning Point, Inc.



@TurningPointMac

## 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.

## Second Hand ROSE Resale Shop



SERVICES TO END DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE

158 S. Main Street • Mt. Clemens  
DONATE • SHOP • VOLUNTEER