



Points of Interest



SPRING 2020 The Newsletter for Friends of Turning Point

SURVIVOR CORNER



Hailee Gacobelli

I never realized the importance of survival until I was forced to see my rapist every day during my junior and senior years of high school.

I am a rape survivor, but it took a long time for me to award myself that title. Not even knowing you were a victim at all is sometimes harder. Can a girlfriend fall victim to her boyfriend? Or did the fact that we were in a relationship make it consensual? These were questions I asked myself for several months.

After the first day of school, we were no longer together, and a part of me was relieved. However, after a couple weeks I started feeling different. A part of myself shifted, and it didn't feel good in the slightest. Not dating him anymore allowed me time to freely think about all of the things he did to me without wanting to suppress them all down for the sake of a toxic teenage relationship.

Several events resurfaced inside my mind. Emotional, mental, verbal, physical and sexual encounters started to connect themselves. These events happened over the course of almost three months. I felt utterly insane for not realizing everything sooner. The spell he enchanted on me was wearing off. I knew then I was a victim of sexual assault, and from somebody I cared about.

The next few months were nothing short of miserable for me. Confusion, hate, fear and self-disgust ruled my life. I still felt as if I were in his clutches, owned

and trapped. Seeing his face in school was the nightmare I believed I would be lost in forever, but Turning Point changed that for me in December of that year.

I was given an angel of a counselor in late December that year. She was one of the only people during that time who really saw my situation clearly and understood my pain and suffering. The first night I met with her was so life changing because when I walked out, it was the first relief I had in months. I felt a little taller, a little bit stronger, and most importantly I was more hopeful about my future.

Turning Point continued to be the light that guided me out of the dark. They were my safe haven, a place my rapist could never find me. It felt even more comforting going there from school because the counseling would calm my nerves after a triggering day.

After almost two years of receiving services, I joined the Survivors' Speakers Bureau to empower and educate the community on sexual violence in teenage relationships. Sharing my story back then sounded frightening, but now I use my voice for those in the audience still searching for theirs.

Second Hand ROSE Resale Shop

SERVICES TO END DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE

158 S. Main Street • Mt. Clemens

DONATE • SHOP • VOLUNTEER

CALENDAR of EVENTS

STEPPING OUT WITH THE STARS

April 24

The Palazzo Grande
54660 Van Dyke Ave.
Shelby Township, MI 48316

TURNING POINT GOLF OUTING

June 26

Cracklewood Golf Club
18215 24 Mile Rd.
Macomb, MI 48042



TARA'S WALK

September 26
Freedom Hill

14900 Metro Pkwy.
Sterling Heights, MI 48312

FEMMES OF ROCK CONCERT

November 7th
Emerald Theater
31 N. Walnut

Mount Clemens, MI 48043

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

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turningpointmacomb.org

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.

Sexual Assault
Awareness Month