



## **Turning Point eases the burden for sexual assault survivors and loved ones, even during the holidays**

*Turning Point's 24/7 Forensic Nurse Examiner Program & First Response Advocacy at 586-463-6990 offers comprehensive medical forensic exams and emotional support to adults and children who have experienced sexual assault*

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Mount Clemens, Mich.—November 2021— According to the [Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network \(RAINN\)](#), when it comes to sexual assault, eight out of ten sexual assaults are committed by someone known to the victim, and the number is even higher for children, at 93%. Those numbers take on new meaning during the holiday season when friends and family gather for what is usually a joyous occasion. [Turning Point](#), an agency whose mission is to provide programs and resources that empower survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault to regain control of their lives, wants survivors of sexual assault to know there are resources available to them, even over the holidays, should an incident occur.

“Unfortunately, the holidays are a common time when individuals may find the people closest to them become perpetrators of sexual assault. That’s an important reason why Turning Point’s Forensic Nurse Examiner Program and First Response Advocacy remain available 24/7 every day including the holiday season”, said Sharman Davenport, Ph. D., Turning Point’s President, and CEO.

Turning Point’s Forensic Nurse Examiner Program and First Response Advocacy provides comprehensive medical forensic examinations and emotional support to adults and children who have experienced sexual assault. Advocates can speak with survivors confidentially and services are available immediately with a call to the 24-hour hotline at 586-463-6990. The hotline is also available for anyone to call with questions or concerns, including law enforcement and medical professionals.

“While it can be understandably difficult for survivors to seek help, certain treatment options and evidence collection is time-sensitive,” said Dr. Davenport.

Further, RAINN notes that DNA evidence can increase the likelihood of holding a perpetrator accountable. Turning Point, which serves Macomb and St. Clair Counties at private sites, also welcomes loved ones accompanying survivors to receive support.

“Individuals close to those directly impacted by sexual assault may also need to talk to a Turning Point professional and we offer that service. If someone needs help, Turning Point is ready to assist”, said Dr. Davenport.

**About Turning Point**

Turning Point provides comprehensive, free, and confidential programs for domestic violence and sexual assault survivors, their loved ones, and the community. Services include a 24-hour hotline, emergency shelter, housing, trauma advocacy/counseling, personal protection order assistance, legal advocacy, forensic nurse examiner program, first response advocacy, prevention, and community education. Second Hand Rose, another Turning Point service, provides survivors with gently used items while providing an opportunity for the community to donate and shop. Serving Metro Detroit for 41 years, Turning Point has helped over 100,000 survivors. Visit [www.turningpointmacomb.org](http://www.turningpointmacomb.org) for more information.

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