



## A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) is an annual campaign to raise awareness about sexual violence that educates communities and individuals on the pervasiveness of violence and preventive measures.

Sexual violence is the ultimate violation and degradation of an individual. It is a life-altering event that no one ever forgets, and its effects are deeply embedded, impacting the life choices of those who survive it. It can lead to short and long-term physical and mental health problems and negatively affect families and communities. According to The National Sexual Assault Hotline, "Every 68 seconds someone is sexually

assaulted in the United States, and in every 9 minutes the victim is a child."

With our support, survivors of sexual violence can start a journey toward emotional healing and establishing a sense of wellbeing and safety. Everyone deserves to live in a safe society; to create such an environment, we must embrace survivors and express our belief in their experiences and our compassion for the cruel treatment they suffered. We must let others know that victim-blaming, sexist language, and behaviors that promote violence are intolerable. We must take a stand and refocus the responsibility and accountability on the individuals who commit these violent acts.

In addition, we must promote social norms that protect against violence by teaching communication skills, empowering those at risk, and creating safe environments. We all have a responsibility to speak up against violence and support efforts to prevent it.

Please join us at our *Take Back the Night (TBTN)* event. This rally and speak-out gathering is an open forum to express feelings about sexual violence and support and solidarity for survivors. Information about TBTN and all other events occurring in April to raise awareness, educate and inform you about sexual violence can be found on our website

<https://turningpointmacomb.org/calendar/>

## ★ 6TH ANNUAL ★ STEPPING OUT WITH THE STARS



The 6th Annual Stepping Out With The Stars will be held Friday, April 29, 2022, at the Palazzo Grande Banquet & Event Center, 54660 Van Dyke, Shelby Township. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and the event starts at 6:00 p.m. With a limited number of available tickets, advance

ticket purchase is required. Ticket includes dinner, open premium bar, dancing, raffles, and a silent auction. \$100 per person, table of 10 is \$900. For tickets or more information, visit <https://turningpointmacomb.org/event/sowts/>



## JOIN OUR VOLUNTEER TEAM

We cannot do this work alone, and rely heavily on volunteers to help us support survivor and program needs.

Last year volunteers donated over 9,000 hours, in a variety of programs supporting survivors there are many different ways to get involved with our mission. To learn more about volunteer opportunities and to apply visit <https://turningpointmacomb.org/volunteer/>



## SURVIVOR CORNER

Most people know that a sexual assault can have a lifetime psychological impact on the survivor. Many don't realize, however, that the lifelong trauma that a sexual assault can have on a person can be physical, as well. My story begins in Nashville where I met a young man who would go on to rape me the night of our second date. After that, I found a sexual assault clinic similar to that of Turning Point's to provide me with a medical examination. I was happy when my tests from my rape kit came back clear, so I didn't believe it several months later when I was told that I had contracted the human papilloma virus. I did not understand how this was possible. My only couple of consensual partners in my life were fully HPV-vaccinated and protected. My rapist had to have infected me.

Two weeks after my biopsy, I found out that I had an advanced case of "carcinoma in situ of the uterine-

cervix" or noninvasive cancer. My genetics combined with the HPV were acting aggressively against me. So my doctor and I had to act equally as aggressively. She recommended a hysterectomy to remove both the chance of invasive cancer and to remove my uterus, destroying my hopes of ever becoming a mother. After my surgery, I knew I wasn't the only one who was robbed emotionally, spiritually, and physically by assault. I wanted to speak out to let others know they weren't alone. That's when I applied for Turning Point's Survivor's Speaker's Bureau. Being given the chance to speak out has given my life and my story the purpose I was looking for. If you are a survivor or have a loved one impacted by domestic or sexual violence and are interested in learning more about the Survivor Speaker's Bureau, please visit <https://turningpointmacomb.org/community/survivor-resources/>.

## CALENDAR of EVENTS

### WEAR TEAL DAY

April 5 – Wear teal to raise awareness about sexual violence.

### TAKE BACK THE NIGHT

April 7 – at the Recreational Authority of Roseville and Eastpointe 6-8pm

### CONSENT CULTURE PRESENTATION

April 20 – Mt. Clemens 6-7pm

### ★ STEPPING OUT ★ WITH THE STARS

April 29 – The Palazzo Grande Shelby Township, MI 48316 5:30-11:00pm

### SURVIVORS GOLF OUTING

June 24 – Cracklewood Golf Club Noon Shotgun Start

To learn more about our upcoming events visit

<https://turningpointmacomb.org/calendar/>



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[www.turningpointmacomb.org](http://www.turningpointmacomb.org)

### Second Hand Rose



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## LEGACY GIFTS

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Mt. Clemens, MI 48043

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<http://turningpointmacomb.org/resale/>