

Points OF Interest The Newsletter for Friends of Turning Point

FALL 2022

A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Human trafficking is considered "one

of the most pressing human rights issues of our time." Worldwide there is an estimated 20.9 million victims. Human trafficking is a \$150 billion-dollar-industry. Human traffickers use "force, fraud, or coercion to control victims for the purpose of engaging in commercial sex acts or labor services against their will." (National Human Trafficking Hotline) More often than not, the trafficker is a person the victim loved and trusted. Most of us do not like to think that anything so deceptive and appalling is occurring in our communities.

Although there are many differences between domestic violence and

human trafficking, there are also many similarities. Human traffickers use much of the same behaviors as domestic violence abusers to exert power over victims. The goal for both a trafficker and an abuser is to make a victim feel shamed. worthless, and totally dependent physically, mentally, emotionally, and financially. Through the similarities between domestic violence and human trafficking, we can see how patterns of abusive behavior create environments that enable and perpetuate violence and oppression. It is because of these similarities, we are given the opportunity to help ensure human trafficking victims are recognized and connected with resources to get the help they deserve!

In response to the community need for trauma informed services for survivors of human trafficking, Turning Point has begun a new Human Trafficking Program. Our new program will provide an opportunity for us to support survivors during their healing process, and include, outreach, counseling, advocacy and housing. As with all Turning Point's programs, we will provide human trafficking services that are survivor-centered and trauma-informed to meet the individualized need of each person we serve. Referrals for the Human Trafficking Program are accepted through our 24-hour hotline 586-463-6990, via email at housing@turningpointmacomb.org, or by calling 586.850.6775.

Adopt a Family

If you are interested in adopting a family for the holiday season please register at https://turningpointmacomb.org/adopt-a-family-holiday-program-sponsor-registration/

Tara's Walk

To learn more or register visit https://turningpointmacomb.org/event/taras-walk/

We are inviting you to sponsor or participate in our 15th Annual Tara's Walk, our signature event for Domestic Violence Awareness Month observed in October. This event is being held on Saturday, September 24, 2022, at Freedom Hill Banquet & Event Center located at 14900 Metropolitan Parkway, Sterling Heights, Michigan.

Turning Point and Tara's sister formed a partnership to honor her memory after Tara was tragically murdered in Macomb County by her husband in 2007. Sharing Tara's life story through this partnership increases awareness about the prevalence and dangers of domestic violence and helps prevent other families from experiencing a similar tragedy.



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SURVIVOR CORNER

My name is Renee and I am a poet, artist and dedicated healthcare worker. There was a time years ago where on any given day I could not go to work, use the phone, do household chores or even step out to get the mail. Experiencing abuse, whether verbal, financial, physical or sexual, takes a toll on your ability to cope. Even as one walks miles as a survivor, triggers can occur and diminish one's sense of safety and peace. Our initial response to those triggers can be panic and fear rather than a logical review of how to address an issue. Self-care is critical to a survivor's independence and well-being but can seem out of reach.

Practicing self-care is not as easy as making a cup of coffee for those of us who lost their self-worth. I started with the practical, setting a day to take care of monthly bills, a day for laundry, a time of day for taking vitamins, and squeezed in time to unwind in the evening. I may miss something in my schedule

but I allow for forgetting and imperfection. Once the basics were better managed, I looked at what options there were to truly make me happy and healthy--counseling, monthly massages, creative outlets, and time with family and friends. For many survivors, utilizing Turning Point's 24-hour hotline and speaking to an advocate can be an act of self-care. If you know someone in your life who could benefit from speaking to an advocate, let them know that the hotline is an option.

The happier and healthier I am, the easier it is to manage the triggers and move towards overcoming the past. The abuse I experienced years ago will never completely go away. There are times I am truly surprised by my reactions to triggers, when helplessness takes hold and panic seeps in, but now I have the ability to move those aside and focus on the right course for me.

CALENDAR of EVENTS



For more about upcoming events visit turningpointmacomb.org/calendar

Tara's Walk

September 24, 2022

Freedom Hill Banquet & Event Center 14900 Metropolitan Parkway, Sterling Heights, Michigan 48316

An Immersive Domestic Violence Awareness Experience Celebrating Survivor Resilience

October 15, 2022 / 12-3pm

Turning Point's Central Office 76 S. Main, Mount Clemens

Sip, Shop & Mingle

November 9, 2022 / 6-9pm

Westview Orchards and Winery 65075 Van Dyke, Washington, MI 48095

Stepping Out With The Stars

March 31, 2023

The Palazzo Grande 4660 Van Dyke Ave, Shelby Twp, MI 48316

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