

OCTOBER 2021

TURNING POINTS

News and Updates from Turning Point of Lehigh Valley



Unmasking Domestic and Intimate Partner Abuse this October



As we close out Domestic Violence Awareness Month this October, we thank everyone that participated in some way, whether it was hosting or supporting a fundraiser, sharing our social media posts, telling a friend or loved one about our services, inviting an educator to speak, purchasing items off our wish list, asking for our materials, or attending our Annual Vigil on October 20th. There were 150 people in attendance at the Civic Theatre in Allentown. It was such a powerful night to remember lives lost, honor survivors, and give hope for the future. Thank you to Lehigh Valley with Love for live streaming it and recording it for us. So far 2,855 people have viewed the recorded vigil and that number is still climbing! Visit our website or our Facebook page to view and share the video and the powerful messages from that night - <https://fb.watch/8TMLTQC5WY/>.



During our vigil, two courageous survivors gave us a glimpse into a moment in time to unmask what happened in their relationships. Our first survivor speaker, Beth Couvertier, shared her story of tragic loss and incredible resiliency. She included the self-blaming WHAT IF questions that she used to ask herself. Today she uses those two words, WHAT IF, to bring awareness and impact change. Her words touched the hearts of everyone who was listening as her voice filled the still air of the Civic Theatre while she asked a series of inspirational WHAT IF questions, starting with, "WHAT IF my story touches one person tonight?"



Our next survivor speaker Nnemdia Anderson spoke about how a specific dialogue from the show "Maid" on Netflix resonated with her. The reason she could relate with that scene was because for years she never knew that she was in an abusive relationship and like many survivors, created a sense of normalcy around how they interacted with one another. At the end of her speech she shared several sentences about being a conqueror that rang out into the audience and filled our hearts with hope. She said started off the first sentence in an empowering tone by saying, "To those who are still in the thick of it and press through one day, just to make it through another. YOU ARE A CONQUERER!"



Many thanks to our allies, community partners, board of directors, vigil committee, staff, and to all of those who made our vigil a night to remember. Thank you to our presenting sponsor Ocean Spray Cranberries and our sponsors Civic Theatre of Allentown, Clean Slate Centers, Lehigh Valley with Love, and Meghan Morrow, LLC. Thanks again to Diane Donaher of the Civic Theatre of Allentown and her wonderful staff for all of the hard work to help us make this happen.



Thank you to those who joined us on stage to make the night special including Jayden Wright for the amazing prelude music, Robin Gow, Supportive Services Coordinator from Bradbury-Sullivan LGBT Community Center for sharing an inspiring piece of LGBT Pride spoken word, and a moving musical performance by Kendal Conrad, and last, but not least our survivor speakers.

In peace,

Lori Sywensky

Lori Sywensky



24/7 HELPLINE 610-437-3369



Community Partner Spotlight



Pictured above from left to right:

Lori Sywensky (Executive Director, Turning Point of Lehigh Valley), Members of the Lehigh Valley Community Benefit – Tammy Schock, Mike Miller, Rick Nauman, Sheila Yudt-Gower, Maryann Erwin, and Andrea Search (Director of Advancement, Turning Point of Lehigh Valley).

Turning Point was honored to receive a check for \$2,500 from the Lehigh Valley Community Benefit on Friday, October 15, 2021.

Thank you all for making a difference in someone's life and for PAYING IT FORWARD!



The Lehigh Valley Community Benefit (LVCB) provides financial relief for numerous families throughout the Lehigh Valley and surrounding areas, and has been able to make contributions to first responders, animal shelters and other charitable organizations.



To learn more about what we've been up to, visit www.turningpointlv.org

”

"The newly added resource room is an invaluable addition to our financial empowerment and workforce readiness program. It will be used for apartment and job searching, applying for benefits or documentation. All of which is necessary in their individual journeys towards financial empowerment and independent lives after having left unsafe and abusive situations."

Kenoa Askerneese, Housing Advocate

Thank You
Guardian



24/7 HELPLINE 610-437-3369



Ways to Give Back



Southside Arts District Turning Point Champion 2021

Thank you to these businesses who participated in the #turningpointchampion challenge during the month of October. Stay tuned for who will be named the 2021 champ!

- Bonn Brewing Company
- Roasted
- Dinky's Ice Cream Parlor & Grill
- The Flying V
- Social Still
- Jenny's Kual

Sponsor or Donate to Our 2022 Virtual Spring Auction

Be a part of our signature fundraising event of the year and help us meet our goal of \$50,000 for this event. Join us as a sponsor for our Second Annual Virtual Spring Auction. All proceeds support our inclusive, trauma-informed services and programs that benefit survivors of domestic and intimate partner abuse and their children.

To learn more about our virtual auction and to view available sponsorship packages or to sign up to donate an auction basket, go to the Sponsor or Donate to Our Spring Auction section on our newly redesigned [Ways to Give Page](#)

We've partnered with Target Circle.
Vote by Dec 31.



Have you voted for us through Target Circle? If not, there's still time!
Vote for us through 12/31/2021.

Check out our [Ways to Give Page](#) to find out how you can double your impact by shopping on our Target Charity Registry.

Economic Impact of Domestic Violence

from DomesticShelters.org

Most of the time domestic violence is discussed in the context of types, incidents, inter-personal dynamics and information on escaping and recovering from violence. Domestic violence also has an enormous economic impact from increased healthcare costs to workplace issues such as safety and productivity.



The cost of intimate partner violence exceeds \$5.8 billion each year,

\$4.1 billion of which is for direct medical and mental health services.

When medical care is needed following an assault, the average number of healthcare visits by type of service, if the service is required as a result of the assault, is

21.1
physical
therapy visits



5.7
nights in
a hospital



4.4
dental
visits



3.2
physician
visits



3.1
outpatient
visits



1.9
emergency
room visits



1.1
paramedic
visits



Victims of intimate partner violence lost almost

**8 MILLION DAYS
OF PAID WORK**

because of the violence perpetrated against them.

This loss is the equivalent of more than 32,000 full-time jobs and almost 5.6 million days of household productivity as a result of violence.



42%
of offenders were
late for work

Over three-quarters of offenders used workplace resources at least once to express remorse or anger, check up on, pressure, or threaten the victim

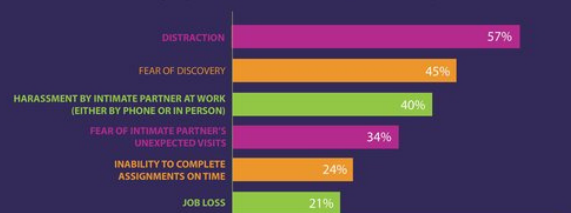
Some abusive partners may try to stop women from working by calling them frequently during the day or coming to their place of work unannounced.

Research indicates that about 50% of battered women who are employed are harassed at work by their abusive partners.



64% of victims of domestic violence indicated that their ability to work was affected by the violence.

Among key causes for their decline in productivity, victims noted



domesticshelters.org
A service of Theresa's Fund



24/7 HELPLINE 610-437-3369





The Spirit of Empowerment

Holiday Gift Card Drive 2021

Give the gift of empowerment this holiday season.

Abuse is all about exerting power and control over someone else. That is why at Turning Point, all of our services strive to give choice and control back to survivors of domestic and intimate partner abuse. Something as mundane as picking out the brand of peanut butter or what kind of detergent to buy can act as a stepping stone in a survivor's journey towards regaining control back over their lives. Your gift card donation empowers survivors to be a part of the holiday shopping experience by allowing them to pick out just the right gifts for their children.

Gift cards are an excellent way to pay it forward this holiday season while empowering survivors to make their own decisions.

Survivor Gift Card Requests Are For:

Amazon, Giant, Target, Walmart, Wawa, Weis, Wegmans, and Visa
(Amounts of \$25 and \$50 are preferred.)

We will be collecting gifts cards through December 15, 2021.
Please direct all questions to: leaht@turningpointlv.org

For more information visit: bit.ly/TPLVHoliday

