

Advocacy In Action

May 2022 Newsletter - News and Updates from Turning Point of Lehigh Valley

Housing Matters

Every week at least one story in the local news is about the housing crisis here in the Lehigh Valley. The high cost of rent and the low availability of units means many people can't find a decent, affordable place to live. While it may seem like there is new housing popping up everywhere these days, the demand still far exceeds supply. So why does this matter to us at Turning Point?

Several studies have found over the years that more than 1/3 of survivors become homeless immediately after fleeing an abusive partner. Too often, when people try to leave, there are not friends or family members to whom they can turn. Often, this is the result of isolation tactics used by abusers. A network of Safe House programs are available throughout the US, but unfortunately, the need continues to exceed availability. On one day, over 30,000 people will find refuge in a safe house somewhere in the US, but an additional 10,000 will not have that option due to lack of space and resources.

At Turning Point, we do everything we can to have an open door when someone finally makes the move to leave an abusive partner.

We used to spend up to \$5,000 a year placing people in hotels when our Safe House building was at capacity; over the past 10 months alone, we have spent \$245,000. This means our staff and volunteers have hustled to do what we could to bring in additional funding to allow us to do this. Offering people shelter in another county or state when they want to stay here in the Lehigh Valley should always be a last resort.

Safe House services are also meant to be temporary, but the lack of housing options means many people stay in a shelter setting far longer than they wish. On average, people are in Safe House 45 days, but this can extend to over 6 months for those with significant barriers, such as wrecked credit, criminal histories or cognitive challenges. It's frustrating finding a new place to live when you have a good job and many other things going for you. For many of our clients, it's not just an uphill battle, it's climbing Mt. Everest.

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When a survivor moves into a place of their own and gets a fresh start or a new beginning, the rewards far exceed the challenges. Everyone needs support at some point in their lives and being part of such a pivotal moment in survivor's lives is one of the perks of doing the work as an advocate.

KENOA ASKERNEESE
TPLV HOUSING COORDINATOR

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We are grateful to have received funding for our New Beginnings program, where we can assist survivors with getting set up in rental units where they can safely set up a home for themselves and their children. Supportive agencies such as the Provident Bank Foundation, C&S Wholesale Grocers, and PCADV (Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence) have provided funds to help people with paying for incidentals needed to set up their new lives. We thank Lehigh County, the United Way, Just Born, and PCADV for allowing us to pay for alternate lodging without time restrictions so people can find their new forever home. We truly appreciate how our community has come together to help us help survivors face this housing crisis as they manage their personal crises. This is why it matters to us and we look forward to the day that none of this is necessary.

In Peace,



Lori Sywensky



Meet Turning Point Staff



Kenoa Askerneese
Housing Coordinator

The work I take part in here at Turning Point is merely an extension of that which is engrained in me, a heart to serve others. When I switched positions from Overnight Advocate to Housing Advocate, I knew it would come with challenges and there are many. When a survivor moves into a place of their own and gets a fresh start or a new beginning, the rewards far exceed the challenges. Everyone needs support at some point in their lives and being part of such a pivotal moment in the lives of survivors is one of the perks of doing the work as an advocate.



Rachael Cohen Hamilton
Housing Advocacy Director

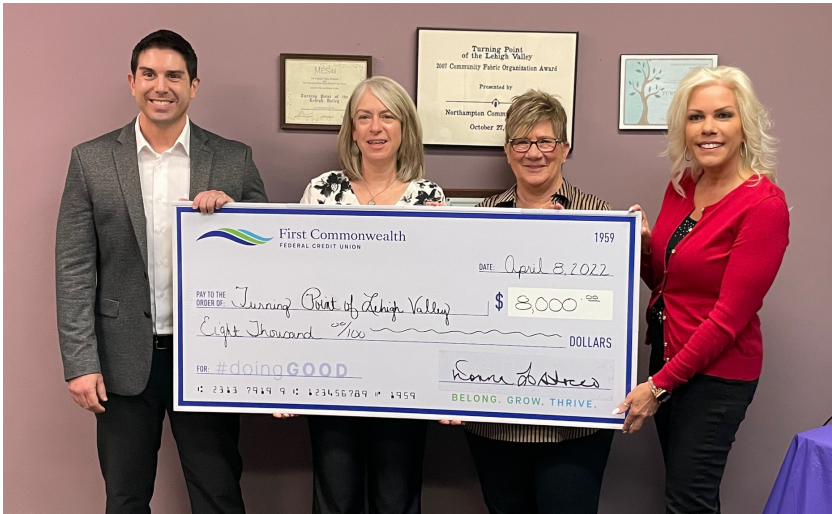
I began working in shelters when I was in college. I love the work of our safe house program and believe that frontline work is necessary to understand that if we want to succeed in our goal to eliminate domestic and intimate partner abuse. I love working with my team through problems and seeing them grow as advocates. One of the most gratifying things for me is when I help a member of my team work through a problem they are having, and then the next time I see them apply those skills and work through it themselves.



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Standing with Survivors



Pictured above from left to right: James F. Gagliano (Chief Experience Officer at First Commonwealth), Lori Sywensky (Executive Director of Turning Point), Linda Thomas (Assistant Director of Turning Point), and Lisa A. Deutsch (Director of Corporate and Community Development at First Commonwealth).

Thank you, **First Commonwealth Federal Credit Union** and **Just Born Quality Confections** for your recent support of \$8,000 and \$3,500 respectively. These critical funds will help Turning Point continue to provide safe and secure emergency shelter for domestic abuse survivors and their families at our Safe House and other confidential offsite locations.



*Give the Gift of
New Beginnings
this Spring!*

Our Spring Appeal is kicking off this month! Consider making a one-time donation or sign-up to give monthly. All proceeds fund our ability to provide emergency services and direct support to survivors and their families at no cost. To donate, please visit:

turningpointlv.org/donate

Community Partner Spotlight: The Valley OM & Union and Finch



This month, we're highlighting our friends at **The Valley OM** in Easton, PA and **Union and Finch** in Allentown, PA for organizing fundraisers to benefit survivors and their families. We are so grateful to have the support of our local business community!

Conducting a fundraiser? Let us know!
Email: leaht@turningpointlv.org



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**THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO PLEDGED TO GIVE THROUGH
THEIR WORKPLACE TO TURNING POINT THROUGH THE UNITED
WAY OF THE GREATER LEHIGH VALLEY'S 2022 CAMPAIGN!**



AIR PRODUCTS RETIREES (MAIN - LV)

AIR PRODUCTS

AMERICAN BANK

ANDESA SERVICES, INC.

ALVIN H. BUTZ, INC.

B. BRAUN MEDICAL, INC.

BROWN-DAUB CHEVROLET OF NAZARETH

BUCKEYE PARTNERS, L.P.

CRAYOLA

EMBASSY BANK

E-Z-DO COMPANY

JUST BORN, INC.

KPMG

LAFAYETTE COLLEGE

LEHIGH VALLEY HEALTH NETWORK

LUTRON

ORASURE TECHNOLOGIES, INC.

ORIGINATE VENTURES

PARKLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT

PPL CORP

RAYMOND JAMES & ASSOCIATES

ST. LUKE'S UNIVERSITY HEALTH NETWORK

TURNING POINT OF LEHIGH VALLEY, INC

UGI UTILITIES, INC.

UNITED WAY OF THE GREATER LEHIGH VALLEY

VICTAULIC

WEGMANS FOOD MARKETS



MAKE A DIFFERENCE ONE STEP AT A TIME

Join us on Saturday June 4, 2022 at DeSales University for the 2022 Highmark 5K Walk for a Healthy Community. Register to walk as an individual, form a team, join a team, or just choose to donate.

The link will open for registrations & donations for Turning Point of Lehigh Valley starting on May 4, 2022 by clicking [HERE](https://www.turningpointlv.org/get-involved/ways-to-give/).

If you would like to make a difference, donate, or learn about other ways to give back, please visit or scan the QR code: www.turningpointlv.org/get-involved/ways-to-give/



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I AM HER

I AM HER is a space for identifying females ages 14 to 18 to build a community of support; those who attend will be able to learn to identify healthy relationship, have a network of support with peers & resources, and develop practical tools to be confident in themselves.

8 Sessions include:

- I. ARE YOU HEALED OR DISTRACTED?
- II. TELL ME ABOUT YOUR EX
- III. PROJECT PERFECT PARTNER
- IV. YOUR ONLY BODY
- V. PEACE OF MINE
- VI. SELF LOVE + SELF CARE
- VII. BECOMING THAT GIRL
- VIII. I AM HER



Thursdays at 5:00pm

**Interested in
joining us?**

Contact Geraldine at:
(610) 797-0530, ext. 321
Geraldinei@turningpointlv.org





MAY 2022

TURNING POINT OF LEHIGH VALLEY VIRTUAL DROP IN SESSION TRAININGS

TEENS AND ADULTS

Being an Ally to LGBTQIAA+ Survivors

May 2 - 2:00pm-3:00pm

May 10 - 3:00pm-4:00pm

May 18 - 6:00pm-7:00pm

May 26 - 9:30am-10:30am

How to Be a Trauma Informed Partner

May 5 - 6:00pm-7:00pm

May 9 - 2:00pm-3:00pm

May 20 - 1:30pm-2:30pm

Understanding Intimate Partner Abuse for Community Leaders

May 4 - 11:00am-12:00pm

May 9 - 3:30pm-4:30pm

Domestic Violence and Spirituality

May 18 - 10:30am-11:30am

May 27 - 2:00-3:00pm

MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS

Recognize, Respond, Refer for Medical Professionals

May 2 - 11:00am-12:00pm

May 9 - 11:00am-12:00pm

May 16 - 11:00am-12:00pm

May 23 - 11:00am-12:00pm

Traumatic Brain Injury

May 3 - 11:00am-12:00pm

May 10 - 11:00am-12:00pm

May 17 - 11:00am-12:00pm

May 24 - 11:00am-12:00pm

May 31 - 11:00am-12:00pm

Domestic and Intimate Partner Abuse in Pregnancy

May 5 - 11:00am-12:00pm

May 26 - 11:00am-12:00pm

Domestic and Intimate Partner Violence- The Effects on Children

May 12 - 11:00am-12:00pm

Questions? Contact Meredith Mecca at MeredithM@turningpointlv.org



Register today via [Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com) or bit.ly/TPLVEventbrite

24/7 Helpline (610) 437-3369

www.turningpointlv.org



PREVENTIVE
MEASURES

A MILLION STEPS

to Mental Health Awareness

Saturday, May 21, 2022



Removing
Barriers, One
Step at a Time.

LET'S WALK IT OUT FOR MENTAL HEALTH!

May 21st at 9 AM | LV Parkway
1600 Park Drive, Allentown, PA
Meet at the Iron Bridge



On Saturday, May 21st, we'll host our 6th Annual A Million Steps to Mental Health Awareness Walk. We're raising \$25,000 to support 10 organizations that are working to remove barriers to mental wellness in our communities, and this year, **Preventive Measures will match every dollar, for a total of \$50,000!**

Your kind donation goes a long way! Please scan the QR code with your smartphone camera to donate, share, or start your own fundraiser!

Team PA Home Health is walking for the benefit of the Allentown Rescue Mission and Turning Point of the Lehigh Valley