

Advocacy In Action

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

We Serve ALL Survivors

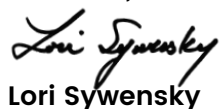
Turning Point of Lehigh Valley provides help to women seeking help when they are living with abuse. That is true, but it is not the complete picture. We serve women who are married to or dating cisgender men, trans women, nonconforming partners. We serve men who are abused by another person, regardless of their gender identity or that of the abusive partner. We appreciate that if you are experiencing abuse by a partner, we may be the only place to turn and we want everyone to feel safe and affirmed when turning to us.

At Turning Point, we recognize that LGBTQ+ survivors face multiple forms of marginality and, despite studies indicating higher rates of experiencing abuse, are less likely to reach out for help from police or other institutions. Sometimes there is a hesitancy to reach out for help because of losing one's ties to a tight knit community. What we do not want is for any survivor to turn away from Turning Point because they lack confidence in our willingness to help them.

Our team invests in training and partnerships to ensure we provide meaningful services to LGBTQ+ survivors. We recognize that each survivor's needs, experiences, and background are unique and require individualized support that meets them where they are along their journey. For LGBTQ+ survivors, it means ensuring we are customizing safety plans to include specific needs and considerations, such as remembering to pack hormone treatments with other important health and safety items. It means connecting residents with other affirmative agencies here in the LV, like the YWCA's A Perfect Fit, to restore their wardrobe if they are starting over. It means asking a person's preferred pronouns and making sure each person has awareness of ways people can enhance their own knowledge and behaviors to help all people feel safe and welcome.

Domestic and intimate partner abuse does not discriminate. It unfortunately impacts people of all backgrounds, regardless of gender identity and sexual orientation. Our continuum of comprehensive services needs to provide safety, support, options, and resources to ALL survivors. Thank you for supporting our work as we try to help our everyone on our community have the chance to feel safe, empowered, and loved.

In Peace,



Lori Sywensky

Tactics that abusive partners use that are specific to LGBTQ+ folk:

- Controlling and/or questioning one's gender identity or gender expression.
- Questioning or not believing the victim's sexual orientation.
- Calling their partner names that are homophobic, biphobic, and transphobic.
- Pressuring a survivor to come out or threatening to out the victim to family, doctors, friends, employers.
- Withholding hormones like testosterone injections.
- Forcing the victim to speak to priests and other faith leaders to "cure" them of their homosexuality, bisexuality, transness.



24/7 HELPLINE 610-437-3369



Meet Turning Point Staff



Welcome to Our Newest Staff Member

**Tori Smith,
Safe House Advocate**

**Why did you choose to
work at Turning Point?**

"Turning Point's mission to eliminate domestic and intimate partner abuse in the Lehigh Valley through empowerment, education, and engagement resonates very closely with my own values. Turning Point practices what they preach. I also love how natural it is for staff to ask about your pronouns. This was very important to me as an LGBTQ+ member."

”

"I almost gave up, but you held me accountable and I wouldn't have done it without your support."

**SURVIVOR & FORMER
SAFE HOUSE RESIDENT**



Liza Shankar, Community Advocate

Why do you enjoy working at Turning Point?

"As a neurodivergent queer person, who is assigned to an intimately sized team, I am proud to ensure that my communities receive focus. Turning Point overall strives to approach client diversity with intention, and I am grateful for that. The modality of community counseling provides the opportunity for me to connect deeply with survivors one-on-one."



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Vote for Turning Point and Help Survivors through June 30th



We're featured in Target Circle™, place a vote for us in the Target app. Here's how:

- Step 1: Choose "My Target" in the Target app
- Step 2: Tap on "Target Circle™"
- Step 3: Select "Vote for nonprofits"
- Step 4: Find us & vote!

Wish List Needs

You can double your impact by shopping on our Target Charity Registry and voting on the Target Circle App.

We appreciate your help in making sure that we are able to re-stock our donation supply so that we have items for survivors and their children when they move into our Safe House Emergency Shelter and transition into a safe place of their own.

[Click here for the Target Wish List](#)

Community Partner Spotlight: Epworth United Methodist Church



This month, we're highlighting our friends Cathy Myers, Karen Shadle, Glenna Burleigh, Janet Pote, and Linda Swart from Epworth United Methodist Church for the incredible job cleaning and organizing our donations!

Interested in your group volunteering? Let us know! Email: andreas@turningpointlv.org



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A Special Thank You to All of Our Monthly Donors

**Cheryl Arndt
Dr. Gary Bonfante
Vanessa Cohen
Helena Cuconati
Adrienne Donica
David and Karen Dunn
Regina Foy
Kim and George Godfrey
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Jadyn Sharber
Madeline Smith
Larry Snyder
Ginny Steele
Janet Tryson
Heather Smith Walbridge
Patricia Walkup
Lauren Wieser
David Zieger**

Consider becoming a monthly donor by visiting our donate page by scanning the QR code or going to turningpointlv.org/donate.



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JUNE 2022

TURNING POINT OF LEHIGH VALLEY VIRTUAL DROP IN SESSION TRAININGS

TEENS AND ADULTS

Being an Ally to LGBTQIAA+ Survivors

June 2nd, 6:00pm-7:00pm
June 7th, 2:00pm-3:00pm
June 13th, 2:00pm-3:00pm
June 22nd, 10:00am-11:00am

Understanding Intimate Partner Abuse for Community Leaders

June 1st, 11:00am-12:00pm
June 6th, 2:00pm-3:00pm

Domestic Violence and Spirituality

June 16th, 10:30am-11:30am
June 23rd, 2:00pm-3:00pm

MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS

Recognize, Respond, Refer for Medical Professionals

June 6th, 11:00am-12:00pm
June 20th, 11:00am-12:00pm
June 27th, 11:00am-12:00pm

Traumatic Brain Injury

June 7th, 11:00am-12:00pm
June 14th, 11:00am-12:00pm
June 21st, 11:00am-12:00pm
June 28th, 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



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



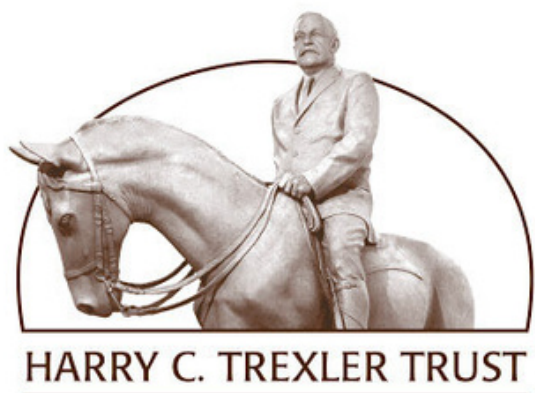
Thursdays at 5:00pm

**Interested in
joining us?**

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



Keeping Us Connected to Survivors in Downtown Allentown, PA



Turning Point is truly honored to have been awarded a grant in the amount of \$20,000 from **The Harry C. Trexler Trust**. This grant will support the existence of our downtown Allentown counseling office at the YWCA Allentown location. We are extremely grateful for Trexler Trust's generous support, which will keep us connected to our community and enable us to continue to empower survivors of domestic abuse in the downtown Allentown area.

Upcoming Events

Register to walk, create a team, or simply donate to our cause.



Help Turning Point on **Saturday, June 4, 2022** for the Highmark 5k Walk for a Healthy Community. The event will take place at DeSales University.

[Click here to learn more and register.](#)

Check-in opens at 7:45 a.m. and the walk will begin promptly at 9:00 a.m.

Email: meredithm@turningpointlv.org

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