

Advocacy In Action

August 2022 Newsletter – News and Updates from Turning Point of Lehigh Valley

Through the Eyes of A Child

One of the first encounters a child has when entering our Safe House is with one of our Childrens' Advocates. Kids of all ages enter the doors with doubts of what their future will look like. Recently, a pre-schooler came to our Safe House with her mom and asked our Director of Child & Teen Advocacy, Braley Veras, "What do people do in this place?" He let her know it is a place for people to get help, including her. She responded by saying, "I think I have something stuck in my eye, do people here help with that?" (Yes, we help with that!) Especially in the midst of crisis, kids remind us of the amazing capacity of the human spirit. They exemplify how abuse does impact, but not define, us.

This year we began offering Turning Point Young Leaders meetings for children staying with us in Safe House. It provides kids an opportunity to sit behind the desk and literally switch roles with our advocates. They give their ideas on things they would like to see or things they would change. This has led to many great ideas for new activities and ways we can help new kids entering our program. It also has given an opportunity to share their wisdom with others. Their viewpoints are inspiring and insightful:

- I am not the problem; the problem is the problem. I just have feelings about the problem. – 10yo
- I am brave. I am strong. I can do it. – 5yo
- I learned that each day I can take steps to become the person I want to be later. I learned my feelings are valid even if they're big and small. I also learned that knowing yourself and learning about who you are is a journey and knowing what you don't like can be just as important as knowing what you love and like! – 14yo
- I need help finding my voice. – 10yo
- Be kind to your mind. – 9yo
- I want to grow up and be a good man for my mom. – 7yo
- I am not the same person anymore. I do not get mad as often and I learned about how to self-regulate. – 14yo
- Can I be the big boss of this place one day? – 10yo

Braley tells people he has the best job at Turning Point, and I think he may be right. Each one of us gets to witness tremendous courage and resiliency on a daily basis, but getting to experience our work each day from the viewpoint of children is uniquely inspiring. As our kids head back to school, let's all try to remember that they have a lot to teach us and our future seems much brighter with them leading the way.

In peace-



Lori Sywensky, ED



24/7 HELPLINE 610-437-3369



Meet the Children's & Teen Advocacy Team

Braley Veras, Children's Advocacy Director



Growing up, I saw the effects of domestic and intimate partner in my community. The lack of available resources and credible messengers was absent for communities of color and I wanted to change that. Turning Point allows me the opportunity to empower and educate the next generation to live safe and healthy lives.

Geraldine Infante, Child and Teen Advocate



Working with children and teens has given me the opportunity to provide the tools for them to empower self-love and healthy relationships within themselves and others. Being able to show up as the person I needed when I was younger to the children I work with now is the reason this type of work is important.

Mary McKenna, Child and Teen Advocate Volunteer



Seeing the children at Turning Point laugh and have fun has always been the most rewarding part of my work. The opportunity to give children a safe space to play, create and interact with others allows them time to just be kids. The resilience children show in an otherwise traumatic and stressful situation is incredible.

"The More We Learn, The Better We Grow" Banner from our Summer 2022 Children and Teen Advocacy Program



DID YOU KNOW?

We have empowerment counseling available for kids and teens who have witnessed or experienced domestic and intimate partner abuse? Teens over 14 or caregivers/parents can call our 24/7 helpline to talk or to set up an appointment.

Are you looking for ways to help the children and teens we serve?



TIPS TO TALK TO YOUR CHILD ABOUT HOW THEY ARE FEELING:

Model talking about your feelings

Practice talking about feelings

Allow your child to have feelings

Give them space

Show empathy

Practice active listening when speaking with your child

Make sure they feel loved

Borrowed from Resilient Lehigh Valley, a multi-sector partnership funded by United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley that convenes organizations and community members committed to advancing the mission of a stronger, more trauma-informed Lehigh Valley by aligning parents, caregivers, educators, health providers, and law enforcement using trauma-informed education and essential resources to support individual and collective resilience. Find many more helpful resources at:

www.resilientlehighvalley.org



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The Results Are In

The Target Circle results are in!

Thanks to everyone who voted.

circle

NONPROFIT PARTNER



The results are finally here and we're thrilled to let you know that after three months of voting, Turning Point received a total of 66,044 votes, awarding us \$3,748 from Target Circle! These funds will help us continue to meet the needs of survivors and their families throughout the Lehigh Valley. Thank you for the outpouring of support over these last three months. We couldn't have done it without you!

Double Your Impact

Make your donation go further by searching to see if your employer participates in a matching gift program. It's a quick and easy way to double your impact!

[Click here to learn more](#)

DOUBLE YOUR DONATION



WILL YOUR COMPANY
MATCH YOUR DONATION?

FIND OUT INSTANTLY!



Thank You to Our Newest Volunteer

This month, we're featuring our newest volunteer, Dave, for braving the heat to help us spruce up our outside areas. Dave recently helped with some landscaping and repainted our bench outside of our administrative building. Interested in volunteering with us? Visit our volunteer page on our website to learn more about how you can make a difference.



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t h a n k y o u

Thank You to Everyone Who Came Out to Support Turning Point at the Golf & Give Fundraiser!



Special Thank You to Everyone Who Donated in the Month of July

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WELLNESS FDN.
VANGUARD
CHARLES AND PAT 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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YOUTH EMPOWERMENT ALLIANCE

Take a stand against Teen Dating Abuse

ACCEPTING NEW MEMBERS NOW!

- Unite with other teens
- Make a change
- Develop leadership skills
- Earn volunteer hours

If you are between the ages of 14-18 and have a passion to make a change in your school and community to end teen dating abuse, here is your chance!

Register here



Contact person:

Meredith Mecca
Community Outreach Director
meredithm@turningpointlv.org
(610) 797-0530, ext. 221



www.turningpointlv.org





AUGUST 2022

TURNING POINT OF LEHIGH VALLEY

VIRTUAL DROP IN SESSION TRAININGS

TEENS AND ADULTS

Recognize, Response, Refer for Educators and Counselors

August 3 - 12:30pm-1:30pm

August 5 - 1:30pm-2:30pm

August 22 - 12:30pm-1:30pm

Recognizing Healthy and Unhealthy Relationships in Teens

August 12 - 1:30pm-2:30pm

August 19 - 11:30am-12:30pm

MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS

Ask a Domestic Abuse Advocate for Medical Professionals

This all new session is an opportunity for medical professionals to have a discussion with an advocate regarding concerns about domestic & intimate partner abuse.

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

August 11 - 11:00am-12:00pm

August 25 - 11:00am-12:00pm

Recognize, Respond, Refer for Medical Professionals

August 1 - 11:00am-12:00pm

August 15 - 11:00am-12:00pm

August 22 - 11:00am-12:00pm

August 29 - 11:00am-12:00pm

Traumatic Brain Injury

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

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

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

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

August 30 - 11:00am-12:00pm

Domestic and Intimate Partner Abuse- The Impact on Children

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

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

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

Questions? Contact:

Meredith Mecca at MeredithM@turningpointlv.org



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

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