



TurningPoint
of Lehigh Valley

— Advocacy In Action —

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

Q&A Session: Getting to Know Chief Michelle Kott



When Turning Point's Director of Advancement, Andrea Search, first met the City of Bethlehem's first female Chief of Police, Michelle Kott, it was via Zoom in the midst of the pandemic. Search said she could feel Chief Kott's enthusiasm about our mission as well as her commitment to the community jump through the screen. She was recently able to sit down in person with Chief Kott and truly appreciated her candor and example as she learned more about her both personally and professionally.

Q: Why did you want to partner with Turning Point?

A: I grew up in a family with domestic violence. It is a cause very near and dear to my heart.

Q: Why did you want to become a police officer?

A: I am going to try not to get emotional. I always wanted to be the protector for my family. My father brutalized mother and physically abused my siblings growing up. My older sister and younger brother would try to normalize it, but I couldn't and I was defiant. I protected my siblings and up until I left for college I stopped my father from hurting my brother. I became a police officer because I wanted to make a difference and didn't want to stand by and let that happen to other people.

Q: What advice or message do you have for someone what is going through a difficult situation right now?

A: People don't realize it, but I have an 8 out of 10 ACE's score. When I was a kid going through this at home, my teachers gave up on me in school. I was told I was stupid. People who used to know me as a child wonder how a once angry girl has become this loving mother and now a police chief.

I now know that I didn't have to be defined by the labels that were given to me when I was growing up. I now have a Bachelors, Masters, and Doctorate in Criminal Justice. I want other survivors to know that they can have good relationships, good careers, and a good life. With the right support systems in place, like the phoenix, anyone can rise from the ashes.

(Cont'd on Page 2)



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Q&A Session with Chief Kott *continued*

Don't let other people define your happiness. I kept my father in my life for 26 years. When my son was born, I cut ties, and I broke the chains. It was scary at first, but it was amazing when I took my power back.

Q: How does your department respond to domestic and intimate partner calls? Which types of calls should they call the police for?

A: We will always welcome all calls because we are a full-service department. We respond to everything because responding to the little things will prevent the large problems to occur. We believe in trauma-informed policing. This is not the Joe Friday type of Dragnet policing. Policing needs to evolve from the just to the facts approach of the 80's.

When we arrive on scene, people just want to be heard. We know that there is a lot historical trauma from policing and know people are sometimes hesitant to reach out for help.

Q: How has your department changed to address the community's needs?

A: It is long overdue in the Lehigh Valley. We now have a full-service public safety officers community connections program that can refer to social workers and refer to community based, city based, or county-based programs. We currently have two social workers and have completed a grant to request for another one. In addition, we have two and have two master level interns to assist with the current program.

Q: Chief Kott, what don't people know about you that you would like to share?

A: When I am off duty, I don't introduce myself as the Chief of Police, that usually comes as the 7th or 10th thing I list. I am a mom, a wife, a Lego lover, I have a tattoo of an eagle, a bird watcher. I now research bird seed on Amazon. There is this squirrel that visits me outside my window every day and I've named him Zippy and I feed him peanuts. I am nerdy, geeky, lame.

After people get to know me I usually hear something like, "You're not what you're supposed to be like." I am really a personable person, but sometimes the uniform scares people.

Q: Is there anything else you want the community to know?

A: We are the type of department who want to know if we aren't doing our job - our demeanor or if we didn't handle a job correctly. We can't get better unless we know where our deficiencies are. Reach out whether it is positive or negative. If we are only looking for positive, then we are doing ourselves a major disservice.

Want to learn more about ACES?

www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/aces/index.html

www.pacesconnection.com/blog/got-your-ace-resilience-scores



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Meet Turning Point's Legal Advocates

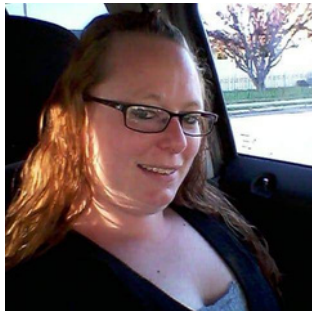
"Turning Point of Lehigh Valley is an incredible resource to the entire Lehigh Valley, and at times, the surrounding areas. I appreciate the support I receive to pursue my passion for victim advocacy, within the legal system. I am most appreciative to be part of the work, particularly with a grassroots organization such as this."

Marlena Flora
Legal Advocacy Director



Carlotta Makovetz

"It is very important for victims of abuse to have someone there for them when filling out the paperwork for a PFA and standing before the judge and telling their story. It helps to give them the empowerment they need to go forward."



Jessica Murphy

"While going through my own journey, I didn't have anyone truly knowledgeable about the process and I want to make sure that others don't feel alone while filling out the PFA paperwork or going in front of a judge. Many of the clients we serve it is their first time dealing with the legal system."



Noemi Ramos

"Regardless of race, sexual orientation, gender, Turning Point of Lehigh Valley is dedicated in serving individuals affected by domestic violence and intimate partner abuse."



Rita Lilly

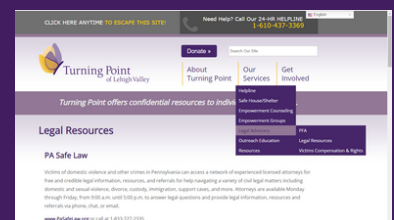
"Being a survivor of domestic violence myself I have developed a passion for helping victims that are going through what I went through. I do not want to see anybody go through one second of what I had to endure. I am proud to be a part of trying to eliminate domestic and intimate violence."

In 2020-2021, our Turning Point Legal Advocates assisted 1,138 people with Protection From Abuse (PFA) hearings and 203 survivors in criminal court. Our advocacy in criminal court increased by 16%.

TURNING POINT OF LEHIGH VALLEY 2020-2021 ANNUAL REPORT

Need information on how to file a Protection From Abuse (PFA) Order, Victims Compensation & Rights, and more?

[Click here to view our Legal Advocacy page.](#)



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Setting Up For Success



We need your help! In preparation for the upcoming school year, Turning Point will be collecting school supplies for children and teens at our Safe House. We're looking for: **backpacks, pencils and pens, markers, folders, notebooks, pencil cases, rulers, calculators, erasers, and more.**

To see our full list, visit our [Ways To Give Page](#).

Questions? Email: andreas@turningpointlv.org

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Very grateful for the support leading up to and during my court hearing. It was a new experience and I was unaware of the process and my rights. I am very grateful and appreciative of your support.

**SURVIVOR COMMENTING ON
OUR LEGAL ADVOCACY**

Community Spotlight: Walmart



This month, we're highlighting Walmart for their generous grant of \$1,000. **Sam's Club on Airport Road in Allentown**, recommended Turning Point for the Walmart Community Grant. These funds will ensure that our Safe House is fully stocked with everyday essentials for the survivors and families who stay with us. **#BetterTogether**



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Thank You to Everyone Who Gave to Our Spring Appeal! You helped us raised \$18,811!

Action Party Rentals
Awareness to Change
Samina Anthony
Laura Azzalina
Thomas Bancroft
Paul Bassa, Jr.
Rob and Kristen Bennett
Bethlehem Gallery of Floors
Renee Belskie
Kathy Bielinski
Carol Boyer
Stacy Broad
Ruth and Mark Chaplis
Jane and Charles Chase
Rebecca Clifford
Joan Cole
Deborah Copf-Miller
Jennie and Brian Dishong
Eric and Joan Dornblaser
Bernie and William Dorney
Catharine Dunn
Barbara Duraso
Tammy Eck
Karin Fair
Bonnie and William Falla
Nancy Feaver
Lisa Fedullo
Marlene and Richard Feulner
Sandra Foster
Robert and Ronnie Freedberg
G Contracting LLC
Christopher Gigler
Lorraine Gyauch
Susan Hall
Karen and Joseph Haggerty, Jr.
Barry and Carol Halper
Peter and Maria Hance
Scott and Amy Happel
Lynne and Leon Harbold

David and Carol Hoff
Darice and James Hoffman
Leah Holmes
Dawn Hughes
Margaret Jeffery
John Jerant
Laurie Johnson
Andrea Jones
Annamarie Jordan
George and Kathy Katchur
Joyce Klein
Thomas Kloss
Anna-Marie Kern
Nancy Knerr Light
Ellen and Jay Kolb
Joanne Krug
Sharon and Tim Lang
Leadership Management International
LVAC - Lehigh Valley Apparel Creations
Lehigh Valley Business Machines, LLC
Lehigh Valley Community Foundation
Vincent and Victoria Landolfi
Gayriel and William Lester
Eileen and Bill Lewis
Marliese Lichtenwalner
David Long
Michael Long
Elizabeth and Charles Lynham
Robert Madden
Kenneth Martin
Sabrina McGonegal
Marypat Mckee
Matricia McLaughlin
Barbara Miller
Joseph and Elaine Molnar
Veronica Newell
Susan Novak
Lisa Pacaro Wexler
Anne Parsons

Carey Patterson
Alex Pavel
Power Engineers, Inc.
Promogroup LLC
Cheryl and William Reesman
Leon Riker
Linda Rosenfeld
Beverly and Richard Saylor
Rosemary Scharf
Marilyn Scheetz
Jack and Nancy Schildt
Barbara Schulman
Janet Schwartz
Ruth and Barry Search
Elizabeth and Harry Sheather
Toni and Jeff Sipos
Dianne Sirmans
Earl and Josi Smith
Philip Smith
Caroline Sojtori
South Whitehall Township
Joseph Spadoni
St. Andrew's Evangelical Lutheran Church -
Women of St. Andrew's
St. Peters Evangelical Lutheran
Donna Stahler
Joan and Frank Stone
Barbara-Anne Taylor
Trinity Episcopal Church
UAW Local 677
Debby Uhler
Vanguard
Emily and Joe Vincent
Dorothy Wallace
Jane and Bill White
Christine Wilkinson
Women in STEM Club of Parkland High School
Mike and Jade Yen
Brooke Zumass

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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UNITED STATES *of America* PAGEANTS



Turning Point
of Lehigh Valley

JULY 9th 2022, 3pm

CROWNS FOR DOMESTIC ABUSE SURVIVORS



You are invited!

USOA Mrs. Lehigh Valley & nonprofit organization Turning Point of Lehigh Valley are inviting you to join us for swinging some golf clubs at The Sweet Spot - The Top Golf Suites. No admission required. Free appetizers and non-alcoholic beverages provided. Alcohol and food are available for purchase.



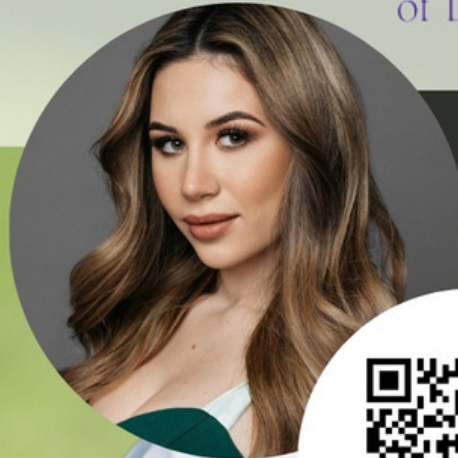
Make the difference!

1 in 4 women and 1 in 7 men have tragically been a victim of severe physical violence in their lifetime. Often times victims remain in their abusive environment because they have no where else to go. Turning Point of Lehigh Valley is an amazing charitable organization that provides shelter, safety and psychological support for victims right here in our own community. The need is great and the costs are high, we need your help! Your donation today can save a life tomorrow! Thank you for your kindness and compassion.



If you are unable to attend

We are looking forward to seeing you on Saturday July 9th! If you can't be with us that day please consider making a donation. Your contribution will help save innocent lives from abuse. Please use the QR code link on the flyer to donate. Your help is extremely important and appreciated!



Diana Colquhoun
USOA Mrs. Lehigh Valley 22'
Domestic violence survivor



USE TO REGISTER
OR MAKE A
DONATION!



The Sweet Spot
2805 Lehigh St, Allentown, PA
18103

RSVP Extended
through July 8th

via the QR code provided

DRESS CODE

Golf apparel or outfit of your
choice