

Crisis
Helpline

800-221-6311

Administration
812-379-5575

Bartholomew

Jennings

Brown

Johnson

Dearborn

Ohio

Decatur

Ripley

Jackson

Shelby

Jefferson

Switzerland

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A United Way/Fund
Agency



Turning Point

Domestic Violence Services

P.O. Box 103 • COLUMBUS, INDIANA 47202-0103

Staying Safe in Summer

While most of us are enjoying summer picnics in the park, swimming, family vacations, baseball games, cookouts and special time with our children, some families are focused on just 'staying safe.' "Turning Point always sees an increase in families fleeing violence at the start of summer vacation" says Pat Smith, executive director. School provides a safe haven for many children who are victims of domestic violence and during the summer months, mothers have to work even harder to keep their children safe from their abuser.

1038 cases of substantiated sexual abuse, physical abuse or neglect were reported in 2002 throughout the Turning Point 12 county service area. With only a small percentage reported and national statistics showing that 50% of men who frequently abuse their wives also abuse their children, the children served by Turning Point are in danger. Children that reside in homes where domestic violence is prevalent are 1500 times more likely to be a victim or a perpetrator of abuse or neglect.

We wish Sharon's story (page 3), told by a nine year old who entered our shelter during 2003, was not commonplace for Turning Point and our community. But the fact is that 1 in 3 women will be victims of domestic violence in their lifetime and children under age 12 reside in half of all households where family violence occurs.



In addition, children who witness family violence are at high risk for school absences, alcohol and drug abuse, sexual promiscuity, running away, lying and stealing, and frequently contemplate suicide. Even for children who are not abused, merely witnessing family violence is traumatic and many grow up to repeat the pattern as victim or abuser.

Turning Point has served over 900 children in our shelter during the past five years.



Do you know this child?

Unusual or unexplained injuries. Chronic illnesses, headaches or stomachaches. Signs of neglect, such as poor hygiene or dirty clothing. Withdrawal (playing alone, having no friends, etc.). Depression or low self-esteem. Use of violence to solve conflict. Trouble falling asleep or sleeping during school. Flashbacks or nightmares. Difficulty expressing emotions other than anger. School problems, including lengthy absences. Acting overly responsible. Aggression in Boys. Passivity in Girls.



MIRACLES happen ★2004 DANCE MARATHON



ships and dating violence. Our hope is to eventually replicate this successful program in other counties we serve.”

The event, started 4 years ago as a Columbus East senior project, has grown substantially with a 35% increase in dancers this year. The 2004 co-chairs were Michelle Stawicki (North), Meagan Burton (East), and Erika Satterfield (East).

Each hour dancers stopped to hear short stories about victims of domestic violence. After one story a teen was quoted as telling her mother (an adult volunteer that evening) “Mom, I live in a bubble – I had no idea this went on in our community.” Unfortunately statistics show it certainly does. Approximately one in five female high school students reports being physically and/or sexually abused by a dating partner.

Maybe it is time to talk with your teen about their boyfriend or girlfriend?



Kid's First
License Plates
benefit
Turning Point

180 students from Columbus North and Columbus East participated in a 12 hour Dance Marathon to benefit Turning Point in February. Together they successfully raised \$26,947 in cash and in-kind contributions through entry fees and additional pledges to support child advocacy and legal programs for victims of domestic violence. Pat Smith, Turning Point's Executive Director, states “the primary goal is to raise awareness among teens and provide important education around healthy relation-

Ask your teenager

- When you and your boyfriend/girlfriend are together does he/she ever call you names or put you down?
- Does he/she act extremely jealous when you talk to your friends?
- Does your boyfriend/girlfriend always check up on you, demanding to know where you have been and what you have been doing?
- Does he/she ever hit, push, or hurt you in a physical way?
- Does he/she pressure you into having sex when you don't want to?
- Does your boyfriend/girlfriend frequently blame you for losing his/her temper?
- Does he/she accuse you of lying?
- Does your boyfriend/girlfriend ignore your thoughts and opinions and make all the decisions for you?

Our
Crisis Line
1-800-221-6311
is staffed
24 hours a day
365 days each
year with
professionals
who offer
information,
support and
guidance.

Never
ignore the
warning
signs.

Kids Count at Turning Point



MaryJane Shireman
Children's Advocate

MaryJane (MJ) Shireman, Turning Point's Children's Advocate, pauses at the door to the new Learning Lab created as a senior project by Brittany Barringer. "This new space within our shelter is wonderful and gives the children a special, designated area to work on projects

and homework each day" says Shireman. In 2003 alone, Turning Point served 182 children and each one received individual attention from the Children's Advocate.

When a family moves as a result of domestic violence, research shows that children lose 4-6 weeks of academic progress. "They take a huge step backward and my primary responsibility is to minimize that loss by eliminating barriers to school enrollment, attendance, and academic success for these homeless children." Shireman, who holds a master's degree in school counseling, helps identify the specific needs for each child and family and acts as a liaison with the local schools and programs to provide "in-school" counseling services, after school childcare, lunch assistance, pre-kindergarten readiness programs,

Sharon's story

Sharon begged her father not to hit her mom that morning when they were arguing. As she boarded the bus, he promised that her mother would be safe. But he had promised before. Sharon was too afraid to tell her teacher, the school counselor, the principal, or her friends that day. Instead, like many children who are victims of domestic violence, she spent the day worrying, alone.

When she arrived home from school her father had not kept his promise and her parents were still arguing. Sharon tried to protect her mother. When she touched her father's arm and begged him to stop kicking her mother, he turned and pushed Sharon to the floor. As he stood over them he began throwing the antique china that once belonged to Sharon's great grandma to the floor, one plate at a time. He said if they told anyone he would kill them and if they tried to run away he would go from house to house until he found them. He said he would kill all of them, even Molly their dog.

and financial help with books and school supplies.

Turning Point children need services that are confidential and compassionate to their situation. As well, they need permanent, safe housing; emotional; financial and social stability; legal advocacy; medical and dental care; remedial and social education programs; psychological counseling; and improved self-worth.

Through her efforts MJ makes a difference each day in the lives of children like Ben within our community. Upon entering shelter, Ben, 7, exhibited many classic symptoms of children who have witnessed domestic violence including extreme anxiety and peer aggression and had regressed to the point that he was unable to control his bodily functions. With the help of the Turning Point Children's Advocate and the tenacity of a loving mother, in six short months, Ben now interacts well with his peers at school, received a citizenship award, is happy, and recently made the honor roll. Most importantly his mother has learned how to be an advocate for Ben within the community and to identify supportive contacts within the school system to ensure his future success.

They were afraid, but Sharon's mother was very brave. She took a first step and came to our shelter for safety, after being treated at the hospital for lacerations to her face, bruised ribs, and a broken arm. The damage her mom suffered was easy to see, but the damage to Sharon, while not visible, may last a lifetime.



Turning Point estimates that nearly 75% of the adults served were either abused as children or witnessed abuse in their family.



Each year, at least 6% of all pregnant women in this country, 240,000, are battered by the men in their lives.



Turning Point

Domestic Violence Services

P.O. Box 103
Columbus, IN 47202-0103

hope@turningpointdv.org

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Family Health Fair

Turning Point participates in numerous outreach efforts within the communities we serve to raise awareness about domestic violence and to provide prevention and intervention services for adults and children. Dana Miller, Director of Residential Services, is shown participating in the first annual Medical Alliance Family Health Fair held in Bartholomew County, to promote health and wellness in the local community. In 2003, Turning Point provided over 75 formal domestic violence training and prevention presentations to over 1200 individuals within our 12 county service area. In addition, specialized training sessions were provided to law enforcement personnel, social service agencies, health-

care providers, and school administrators, and faculty. According to Miller, "our education and prevention efforts within the communities we serve are the key to a violence-free future."

Turning Point Services

Year-to-date through 5/30/04

"In Shelter" Services

Number of Adult Clients Served	68
Number of Children Clients Served	70
Crisis Line Calls	994
Number of Units* (Nights of Shelter)	777

* Unit = 1 night of shelter

Outreach Services

Personal Advocacy	369
Legal Advocacy	391
Crisis Counseling	502
Transport arranged	43
Shelter arranged	34



Dana Miller
Director of Residential Services

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- Emergency Shelter • Education, Prevention, Training • Goal Planning • Advocacy/Case Management
- Children's Programs • 24-Hour Toll-Free Crisis Line • Legal Advocacy