

Community Education Takes a Year-Round Approach

Training the Trainer

TPN community educators who are trained facilitators have offered a “train the trainer” workshop the past two years that helps widen the network of Healthy Relationship Project experts throughout the county. They also love seeing the resulting experts in action. This past May, TPN educator Kerry Rochford Hague had the chance to travel to Grantham Village School, where she co-taught with school counselor Kris Widmann in guidance classes for K-2 students. Widmann had participated in “train the trainer” the previous year. “Partnering with Turning Points on the Healthy Relationships Project has really transformed our sexual abuse prevention program,” said Widmann. “I felt supported by TPN throughout! TPN provided the training for this research based trauma informed program, held a workshop for our parents, and co-taught the program with me. The students looked forward to every lesson.”

“We really feel that working with professionals, such as school counselors, who see children throughout the year helps broaden safety nets for children and youth,” noted Rochford Hague, “and it provides for additional trusted adults that children can go to if they have questions or need help.”

Summer Sessions

When schools are out for summer, prevention education occurs in other locations. TPN educators collaborated for the first time with local libraries to present relationships skills training during summer reading programs.

TPN educators also headed to Camp Coniston to train college-aged camp counselors in the concepts of understanding consent and respecting boundaries. Because counselors interact with potentially hundreds of kids each summer, having them be role models for healthy relationships and on the lookout for kids who might need help gaining these skills in a non-school setting can really reinforce the lessons they receive when school is back in session.

In Schools and in Communities

With the calendar turned towards fall, TPN educators headed back to



[Above] Kindergarten through 2nd grade students learn about healthy relationships with school counselor Kris Widmann. (With permission of Grantham Village School). Prevention educators Kerry Rochford Hague and Jen Gallagher [lower left] with Camp Coniston counselors who are learning about boundaries and healthy relationships.



the schools and a busier fall semester than they’d seen in many years. Educators worked with staff and school administrators to instruct students on topics from respecting boundaries to developing empathy. These skills help build healthy relationships and also help strengthen school climates by preventing bullying and harassment. Educators conduct parent/caregiver training to share the concepts children will be learning and also to encourage adults to help reinforce the lessons learned. This work continued into high school settings with “Bringing in the Bystander,” which teaches youth how to respond safely when witnessing abusive or harassing behaviors.

TPN educators also had a chance to engage in some innovative and fun community education with Taco About Relationships, cosponsored by Charlestown Rotary, in October and at River Valley Community College, where they taught adult participants about the 10 Signs of Healthy and Unhealthy Relationships. “Whether we work directly with students or school staff, or in the community with other adults, these programs have the potential for sparking conversations about relationships that otherwise might not happen,” notes Gallagher. “It’s critical for the students to have these lessons. But it’s also crucial for adults to have the skills to talk about these important issues with the kids in their lives.”

Opening Our Doors: Inside 231 Broad Street



Meeting at the October Open House are (L-R) TPN programs director Amanda Mace, TPN board president Chris Hill, NHCADSV executive director Lyn Schollett, retired TPN executive director Deb Mozden, and new TPN executive director Pascale Graham.

TPN hosted a series of receptions and an open house in October 2023, with board and staff offering insight into the benefits of the new Claremont headquarters. More than 100 attendees had a chance to tour the new facility, meet with board members and staff, and learn more about the services TPN offers. As part of the festivities, Mayor of Claremont, Dale Girard, issued a proclamation declaring October 2023 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month for the City of Claremont.

Members of partner agencies, law enforcement, local businesses, neighbors, and government agencies also had a chance on October 12 to

meet with direct services staff and prevention educators. For many, it was their first time in our new facility or meeting with TPN staff.

After the successful completion of the capital campaign for the new facility, Turning Points staff and board will now turn our attention to building a strategic plan to meet the increased need for survivor services—including child advocacy, legal services, and mental health services—and expanded prevention education (K-12) and early intervention (pre K-2). The new facility offers ample space for providing services once resources are identified for moving forward.

New Space Offers More Room for Support Groups

The new Deborah L. Coffin Conference Room in the Claremont office is a welcome resource and meeting space. Since opening last winter, it has been used for volunteer advocate and educator trainings, weekly support groups for survivors and meetings with partners from other agencies.

One evening a week from 5 to 6:30 pm, direct services advocates Lynn Houde and Michelle Burke host, “Letting Go of Shame” an art

journaling group based on the work of Brené Brown. Advocates are also co-facilitating a drop-in lunch group on Fridays from 12 to 1:30 pm with a new topic each week.

“I look forward to going to group each week and meeting with the other women,” one survivor noted. “The art we do and the videos we watch and talk about are awesome.”

[right] A collage created by a support group member.

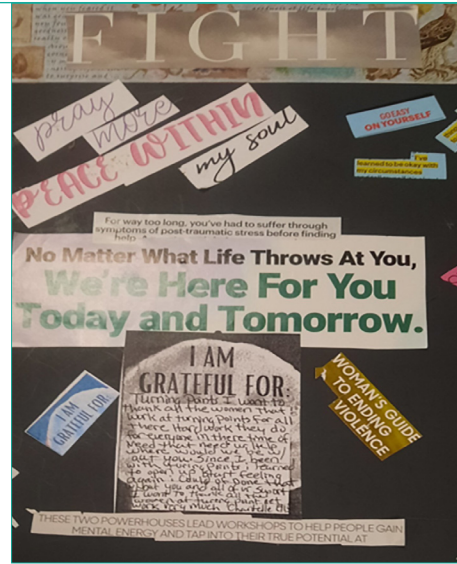
FROM THE DIRECTOR

Turning Points Network reached several milestones this year as I took on this new position at the agency.

Significantly, Deb Mozden took the final step in her journey into retirement after 40 years of service to our community. She has built something remarkable and enduring in Turning Points Network, and I am grateful for her dedication, wisdom, and the grace she has shared with all of us. I also had the opportunity in October to gather with long-time friends and donors, colleagues in the advocacy profession, as well as new friends and members of the local community to join in the celebration of our new headquarters.

This year we start anew facing the twin challenges of a growing need for direct services and prevention education and finding innovative ways to fund them. Through the support of our friends and donors as we move ahead, we are excited to meet these challenges while developing in ways that address the identified needs of Sullivan County. I look forward to an enduring partnership with supporters in our community that make our work possible.

Pascale Graham, Executive Director
pascale@turningpointsnetwork.org



Volunteer Spotlight



Carol Calkins, TPN board member since January 2013 and a past TPN board president, recently stepped down from her position on the board. As a board member, Carol has been actively involved with the Strategic Planning Committees as well as the Steppin’ Up and Teams Committees for much of the past decade.

“Carol has been an inspiration, both for her devotion to survivors and her undaunting support of TPN,” noted Chris Hill, TPN board president, “and we will miss her energy and enthusiasm.”

Laura Ryan is also retiring from her position as a long-time all-star volunteer. Laura started with TPN back when it was still Women’s Support Services in February 2004. During the past 19 years, she has provided extensive crisis line coverage, support at the shelter, survivor transport, and fill-in staffing at both the Newport and Claremont offices.

“Laura has pretty much done it all,” said Pascale N. Graham, executive director. “We were able to count on her to help wherever and whenever it was needed, and her soft, kind, and thoughtful demeanor were so incredibly welcoming for survivors and staff alike.”

Interested in volunteering at TPN or at Changes Boutique & Thrift? For information, email: jen@turningpointsnetwork.org

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Turning Points Network

Preventing Violence • Promoting Respect • Strengthening Lives

Shelter Reopens and Attracts INSPIRED Red River Volunteers

After 10 months of renovation and repair, TPN’s emergency shelter reopened in October to survivors and their families. Despite the logistical and other hurdles that the fire and recovery entailed, getting the renovated shelter open has been well worth the challenge.

“We’re so grateful for the community support and concern that followed the accidental fire last December, and pleased that survivors now have a secure, stable and welcoming place to call home as they recover and plan their next steps,” said Amanda Mace, TPN programs director.

Following reopening, a group of more than 20 “INSPIRED” employees from the Claremont technology business Red River spent a day of action volunteering at the shelter prepping for new landscaping, painting the shelter foundation, and putting together a shed.

Red River volunteers also helped out at TPN’s resale store, Changes Boutique & Thrift, on Pleasant Street, reorganizing a backlog of donations and building shelves in the building’s basement.



year end milestones

Financial Empowerment is Freedom

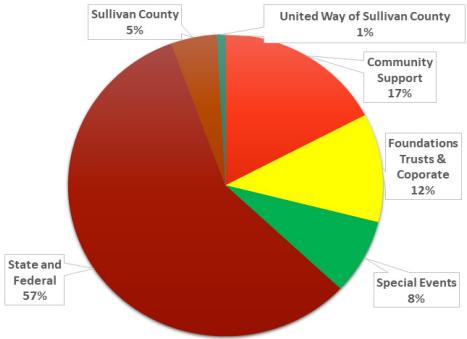
For more than a decade, Turning Points Network’s financial management training program has enabled participants to become financially independent of their abusive partners. Before this training, half of the women in TPN’s shelter eventually returned to their abusive situations because they could not sustain themselves financially. Since adding this program, a significant proportion of the women who come to the shelter remain independent.

One example of a recent participant is “Mary,” who lost her farm and poultry business after she was forced to leave the home that she shared with her ex-partner, also the father of her children. Turning Points Network purchased the supplies she needed to get a new farm business back up and running. Mary is now operating her own farm stand and continues investing money from sales into the business to help it grow. *Since 2022, this program has been sponsored by the Jack and Dorothy Byrne Foundation.*

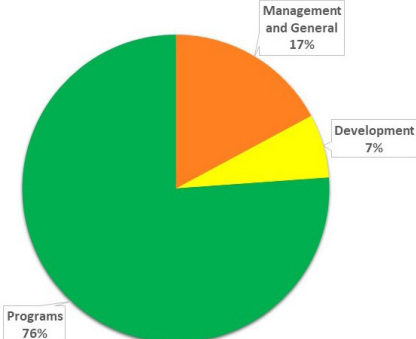


Helping with “Mary’s” chickens. (Photo used with permission.)

Turning Points Network 2023 Annual Report at a Glance

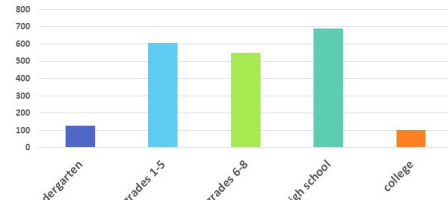


Income 2022-2023

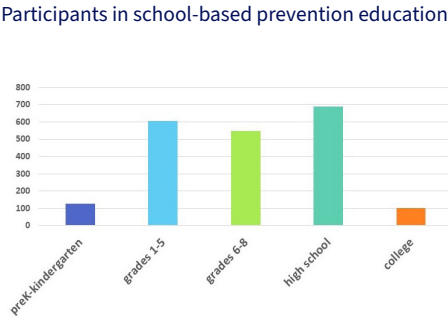


Expenses 2022-2023

Participants in school-based prevention education



Community Education 2022-2023



Direct Services 2022-2023

SAVE THE DATE: MAY 4



Turning Points Network’s signature event the annual Steppin’ Up to End Violence 5K Walk/Fun Run will be May 4. Last year’s event generated more than \$98,000 and featured hundreds of walkers, runners, volunteers, sponsors, and donors steppin’ up to raise awareness and support TPN.

Mark your calendar for Saturday, May 4, 2024