

THE TURNING POINT

SERVING SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE

newsletter

DIVERSE
INCLUSIVE
ACCEPTING
WELCOMING
SAFE SPACE
FOR EVERYONE



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FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In a world striving for inclusivity, it is crucial to celebrate and support the LGBTQ+ community. This vibrant community encompasses individuals who have fought tirelessly for their rights, inspiring progress for all. By embracing diversity, we foster a society that values love, acceptance, and understanding. Every person, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity, deserves equal rights and opportunities. Let us stand together, championing LGBTQ+ voices and advocating for their rights. By doing so, we create a more compassionate and harmonious world, where everyone is free to be their authentic selves. Together, we can ensure a future where love and respect triumph over prejudice and fear and safe communities exist for all.

Wendy 

DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHT: TRAINING & OUTREACH

PREVENTING VIOLENCE

Amy Lawrence, Training and Outreach Manager

Violence takes many forms: gang violence, child abuse, dating violence, bullying, elder abuse, sexual violence, suicide, and more. After the shooting in Allen, violence has invaded our public conversations, thoughts, and our daily lives in a collective and unescapable way. At The Turning Point, a key part of our mission is to prevent sexual violence before it occurs through awareness and education programs.



While sexual violence may seem a far distance from the mass shooting in Allen, decades of research, prevention efforts, and services have proven that various forms of violence are interconnected and the ways to prevent and respond overlap. Understanding this interconnection and overlap can provide an opportunity to collaborate and integrate our response to violence in a way that holistically strengthens the health and safety of our entire community.

While the causes of violence are complex, researchers have been able to identify risk factors that increase a community's or individual's likelihood of experiencing or committing violence as well as protective factors that can buffer these risks and strengthen resilience. At the individual level, examples of risk factors might include poor problem-solving skills, mental health problems, early exposure to violence, and impulsiveness. Less research has been conducted on protective factors, but some examples include access to mental health services and connection to a caring adult. By reducing risk factors and strengthening the protective factors for victimization and perpetration, we can reduce violence. When these efforts are undertaken at the community level, the whole community can change its experience with violence and create conditions for healing and safety.

Another phenomenon observed by researchers is that violence begets violence. While most individuals who are victims of violence do not act violently, the early exposure to violence increases the likelihood of experiencing other forms of violence in their lifetime. It also increases the risk of acting violently towards others or themselves. In fact, many individuals who commit one form of violence often behave violently in other circumstances and environments. Therefore, strengthening protective factors is key to changing this violent trajectory. Approaches might include increasing community, school, and family connectedness; increasing access to mental health care and substance abuse services; and coordinating services across communities.

Understanding these linkages and overlaps can strengthen our community's violence prevention response through increased collaboration and coordination among agencies and organizations, pooling funding and more effective use of resources, and providing targeted care and services based on associated risk factors. Recent tragic events have pulled violence out of the private sphere and into local public consciousness, and we have a unique opportunity to make new connections and investments in reducing all forms of violence in our community.

Reference:

Wilkins, N., Tsao, B., Hertz, M., Davis, R., Kleven, J. (2014). Connecting the Dots: An Overview of the Links Among Multiple Forms of Violence. Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Oakland, CA: Prevention Institute. Available at: https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/connecting_the_dots-a.pdf

APRIL 2023-SAAM RECAP

"ASK FIRST: CONSENT"



Community Outreach & Training

THE TURNING POINT PRESENTS

**TRAUMA INFORMED: MULTIDISCIPLINARY TRAINING
FOR THE “FIRST RESPONDERS” OF SEXUAL ASSAULT**

**AUGUST
29**

**COLLIN COLLEGE
CONFERENCE CENTER**

McKinney, TX 75071

This 4-hour training is for professionals, including dispatchers, fire/EMS, nurses, and police, with discipline-specific breakout groups. TCOLE and CEUs will be available.

Participants may choose to attend either Session A or B.

Session A: 8am-12pm

Session B: 1pm-5pm

Attendance for the full four hours is required for credit.

To register:

Session A : <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/630389862047>

Session B : <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/631729508967>

Contact Brian Pfahning at bfahning@theturningpoint.org for questions.

THE TURNING POINT

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DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHT: COURTNEY'S SAFE PLACE

CSP---A SAFE PLACE, FOR EVERYONE!

Amy Chennault, Forensic Nursing Program & Courtney's SAFE Place Manager

On November 13th, 2018, The Turning Point opened the doors to the in-house forensic clinic, Courtney's SAFE Place. Courtney's SAFE Place provides trauma-informed care for those who have experienced a sexual assault within the past 120 hours. It is the only clinic in the North Texas area where survivors of sexual assault can go for a sexual assault forensic exam 24/7. There are 11 Forensic Nurses who work for The Turning Point. The forensic nurses provide forensic exams with evidence collection, medications for STI and pregnancy prophylaxis, and advocacy free of charge. Since opening, approximately 600 survivors of sexual violence have received forensic exams at Courtney's SAFE Place!



All services provided at The Turning Point and Courtney's SAFE Place are free. Survivors never see a bill. CSP has made it so that survivors of sexual assault do not have to go to the hospital for an exam and have long wait times in an emergency room.

Courtney's SAFE Place is a calm and welcoming environment. It is housed in the same building where survivors can receive counseling services, as well. At CSP, the survivor is in complete control. They have the choice to complete all or parts of the exam. We ask for consent throughout the exam. Everything is up to them! To receive an exam at CSP, the person must be 17 years old or older, not be under the influence of intoxicants, and not be in need of emergency hospital services or emergency psychiatric services.



We want everyone who comes through the doors at CSP to know:

**YOU ARE SAFE!
YOU ARE BELIEVED!
THERE IS HOPE!**

If you want to make a difference in the lives of those who visit Courtney's SAFE Place, click [here](#).

DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHT: ADVOCACY

ADVOCATE SPOTLIGHT



Sweccha Guntamukkala

My name is Sweccha Guntamukkala, and I have been volunteering with the Turning Point since January 2023. I am from Frisco, TX, but I currently live in Austin as I'm a student at UT. I find it rewarding to support survivors and help them access resources during their healing process. In my free time, I enjoy baking, hiking, and singing.

Mayra Lopez

My name is Mayra and I am a Pretrial Services Officer for Dallas County, specializing in Electronic Monitoring. I have been an advocate at The Turning Point since 2022 and I'm happy to have found an organization that is doing such amazing work for survivors during one of their most difficult times. I'm proud to be part of that work. During my free time, I enjoy going to the gym, trying new recipes, and traveling.



Suzette Powell

My name is Suzette Powell and I have been volunteering with TTP since March 2023. I am passionate about helping those in need- especially survivors of abuse. In my free time I enjoy spending time with my family and our 3 dogs, traveling and learning about other people and cultures.



DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHT: ADVOCACY

ADVOCATE SPOTLIGHT



Tori Cantu

I have a passion for helping others, particularly youth and young adults. In my free time you'll find me doing something outdoors or messing with my animals. I am very blessed to be doing this with my wife Kimberly.

Virginia Moreno

Hi, my name is Virginia Moreno. I am a current Nursing Student at WCU. I was introduced to Forensic Nursing when I began my college nursing education. My goal is to become a SANE Nurse, but I wanted to help victims now and I became a volunteer for The Turning Point in August 2022. I believe sexual assault is a preventable pandemic, and I eagerly anticipate a future without sexual violence. Until that day arrives, I will be present to assist victims.



Britney Gustin

My name is Britney and I have been a sexual assault advocate with The Turning Point off and on since 2016. My goal is to become an instrument of justice, empowerment, and hope as I navigate through a broken world. In my free time I enjoy hanging out with my kiddos and dogs. I also enjoy reading books and working out.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteers like you are the pillars of our organization.

TTP Volunteer Opportunities:

- Administrative Volunteers
- Outreach Volunteers
- Special Event Volunteers
- Fundraising Volunteers
- 24-Hour Crisis Hotline Advocates
- Hospital Advocates

Interested in becoming a volunteer?

Contact: volunteer@theturningpoint.org



AUGUST TRAINING DATES

Tuesday, August 8 (6:30pm-9:30pm in-person)

Wednesday, August 9 (6:30pm-9:30pm via Zoom)

Thursday, August 10 (6:30pm-9:30pm via Zoom)

Tuesday, August 15 (6:30pm-9:30pm via Zoom)

Wednesday, August 16 (6:30pm-9:30pm via Zoom)

Thursday, August 17 (6:30pm-9:30pm via Zoom)

Saturday, August 19 (9am-1pm in-person)

Tuesday, August 22 (6:30pm-9:30pm via Zoom)

Wednesday, August 23 (6:30pm-9:30pm via Zoom)

Thursday, August 24 (6:30pm-9:30pm in-person)

COMMUNITY IMPACT:

Here's a summary of the impact we have made in the community January 2023-May 2023:

Hotline Calls
863

Forensic Exams
200

Counseling Sessions
1,487

Clients Received Legal Assistance
28

Medical Accompaniments
241

Legal Accompaniments
3

Our community impact could not be done without your generosity. Thank you!

The Rape Crisis Center of Collin County (d.b.a. The Turning Point) is a 501(C)3 charitable organization and is supported by donations and public funds. Donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

Donations can be sent to **3225 Silverstone Drive, Plano, TX 75023** or through our website at: www.theturningpoint.org/donate

