

# Crisis Helpline

800-221-6311

Administration

812-379-5575

Bartholomew

Jennings

Brown

Johnson

Dearborn

Ohio

Decatur

Ripley

Jackson

Shelby

Jefferson

Switzerland

October, 2004

A United Way/Fund  
Agency



## Turning Point

Domestic Violence Services

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

# Imagine being the victim...



**Imagine** going to court alone to face someone who has threatened to kill you and hide your body if you tell anyone about the abuse occurring each day in your home.

**Imagine** waiting alone in the courthouse hallway for your case to be heard by a local judge and having your abuser sit down next to you.

**Imagine** being called to testify before a judge about the intimate details of your relationship, including how you were sexually assaulted, while your partner stares at you from a seat less than three feet away.

**Imagine** walking to your car after your court appearance and you hear your partner's footsteps behind you.

75% of all homicides related to domestic violence occur within 90 days of a victim's attempt to leave their assailant. Victims of domestic violence have good reason to be afraid. They face great danger each time they appear in court or attempt to access the legal system. Whether they are in court asking for a court's Order of Protection, a divorce, enforcement of a child support order, or appearing as a witness in a criminal trial, they have legitimate fears. Directly confronting a loved one that has harmed and threatened them in the past is a terrifying experience.

At Turning Point, our advocates and Community Service Directors accompany clients to court to provide support and reassurance. Our staff is specially trained to help domestic violence victims understand the legal language in court orders, complete applications for protective orders, and follow standard court etiquette. When our clients must go to court without an attorney, they appear more prepared and confident. This confidence translates into victims who are more likely to succeed in court and to keep themselves and their children safe.

In addition, we work closely with courthouse staff and law enforcement to ensure our clients are safe when they enter and exit the courthouse, while they are waiting, and while they are testifying. During 2003, Turning Point served 471 new clients through our part-time Bartholomew County Courthouse legal advocacy program and many more through our Community Service Directors in Jackson, Jefferson, Johnson, and Shelby counties. Unfortunately there are more clients to serve; over 750 protective orders were filed during 2003 in Bartholomew County alone.

More than 50% of child abductions result from domestic violence.



# Legal Advocacy Services

Turning Point advocates are not licensed attorneys and do not represent clients in court. However, many legal supportive services can be provided to domestic violence victims. A legal advocate may assist clients by:

1. Helping victims complete applications for Orders of Protection;
2. Attending court hearings with victims;
3. Explaining courtroom etiquette;
4. Referring victims to local attorneys;
5. Interacting with the prosecutor and law enforcement on behalf of clients;
6. Assessing lethality and conducting safety planning with victims and their children;
7. Educating victims on the dynamics of domestic violence;
8. Explaining basic legal options for victims;
9. Offering community referrals for shelter, counseling, housing, medical services or other social services; and
10. Leading systemic change within the local court systems to improve safety for victims.

Women who obtain protective orders were 60% less likely to have further contact with their abuser and 70% less likely to experience injury.

“Women who live in counties with legal assistance programs to help battered women are significantly less likely to suffer abuse because legal services help women with practical matters... and actually present women with real, long-term alternatives to their relationships.



## Profile: Amy Huffman Oliver, J.D.

As Turning Point's Director of Legal Services Amy Huffman Oliver has a difficult job. "Each week I usually have to explain to police officers why a victim would call 911 to stop the violence in her home, but bail the assailant out of jail two hours later. Police see domestic violence up close almost everyday." Amy tries to help officers see the situation from the victim's perspective. She reminds officers that victims still love their partners. They just want the abuse to stop and often believe promises that it won't happen again. In addition, when there is emotional abuse the victim may be unable to see the true scope of their personal situation.



training on the legal issues of domestic violence by providing legislative updates, case studies, and recent court cases relating to domestic violence prosecutions. Topics such as improving the investigation of a strangulation case, developing a sound stalking case, and determining which party is the predominant aggressor in a battery case are a few of the specific modules developed to assist law enforcement departments in providing current education for officers on domestic violence issues.

Turning Point also offers general training on domestic violence, divorce proceedings, custody law, protective orders and workplace violence to community organizations, agencies, human resource professionals, attorneys, and other social service agencies. Recently a workshop was provided for Shelby County clergy members to assist them in recognizing signs of domestic violence within their congregation.

To schedule domestic violence training for your group or business, please call Amy at (812) 379-5575 X203.

The health-related costs of rape, physical assault, stalking and homicide committed by intimate partners exceeds \$5.8 billion each year in the U.S.

Already in 2004, Oliver has trained 432 law enforcement officers to better investigate domestic violence cases in five counties including Bartholomew, Jackson, Johnson, Jefferson, and Brown Counties. A licensed attorney and former domestic violence prosecutor in Marion County, Oliver focuses

# Living in fear ...every day

I am a mother of an 11-year-old son and 8-year-old daughter. I have an excellent job at a successful local business and am a survivor of domestic violence. I am writing this statement on what would have been my wedding anniversary; my divorce has been finalized. Yet, my divorce has not freed my children or me from the nightmare and fear of domestic violence.

For years, my children hid in their rooms under their blankets or in their closets crying and praying the fighting would stop. They would scream out "Don't hurt my Mommy! We're sorry. We'll be good." He beat me, broke my ribs, injured my shoulder and back, shot at me, and much more.

Warning signs that an abuser might become lethal...

- Threatens or fantasizes homicide or suicide
- Escalates violence when victim separates from relationship
- Has access to weapons
- Acts as if they have "ownership" of victim
- Obsesses over victim or family
- Exhibits depression
- Discusses hostage-taking
- Escalates risky behaviors
- Frequent, previous contact with police

## Have you ever been afraid to go home?

CLIENT STORY...

Wendy's ex-boyfriend had become abusive and when she ended the relationship the stalking began. Each day he would sit in his car outside her home. Each day he would follow her to work. Each day he would sneak into her home and rearrange the pillows on the couch, turn lights on and off, or move furniture so she would know he had been inside. Wendy and her young daughter were afraid to go home.

A Turning Point legal advocate was able to help Wendy obtain a protective order but she was still afraid to go home. Unfortunately each time she saw her stalker and called the police he could not be found when they arrived. Finally an officer was able to serve a protective order and a kind detective was assigned to manage her case. With more than 20 police reports documenting his continuing activity, the stalker was placed in jail for 30

He went to jail, but bonded out the next day and continues to disregard the protective order I have secured. He is free... while my children and I remain in prison. We live in fear every day. We need more strict laws against domestic violence, and education that domestic violence exists in our community. No form of domestic violence will ever be acceptable. No child should ever have to scream out in terror because they believe their daddy is killing their mommy.

Thank you for hearing my voice today. Please listen, care and take action when children tell you about their fears of domestic violence.

*a Survivor*



Never  
ignore the  
warning  
signs.

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.

days. When he was released, Wendy and her daughter sought refuge at Turning Point's Emergency Shelter.

Wendy left the area and is now settled in another state in the Midwest where she remains in hiding and has been undisturbed for over two years. Her mail is forwarded through the Attorney General's Address Confidentiality Program to ensure that her address is not noted on any public records.

Before leaving, Wendy expressed gratitude to the staff at Turning Point for their assistance in planning her escape. Although she will always look over her shoulder, Wendy knows she and her daughter are safer today and have "Hope for Tomorrow."

**Crisis  
Helpline**  
800-221-6311

**Administration**  
812-379-5575

**86%**  
believed their life  
circumstances  
were  
**more  
manageable**  
after their stay  
at Turning Point.



**Turning Point**  
Domestic Violence Services

## 2003 Report to the Community

Over the past 5 years, domestic violence has received increasing attention in the media, from law enforcement and from the public in general. In addition, many of us in the general population are aware of increased levels of violence in society at large and the need for a targeted response. At Turning Point it has become clear that our efforts to address domestic violence are resulting in more accessible services for victims.

More and more victims of domestic violence are reaching out for help. Many indicators of activity throughout Turning Point's multi-county service area give further evidence that victims are attempting to deal with domestic violence issues by seeking legal advocacy services, protection in shelter, learning how to protect their children, and accessing our Toll Free Helpline. During 2003, Turning Point Community Service Directors assisted nearly 10 times the number of families than were served historically through our emergency shelter program.

At the same time, Turning Point's strongest indicator of effectiveness is the fact that 70.5% of victims served in shelter this past year did not immediately return to their assailants following a stay in shelter. This is nearly double the success rate of the national average and is testimony to the case management approach of working comprehensively with clients to free them from the cycle of domestic violence.

Supportive services provided in Bartholomew, Jackson, Johnson, Jefferson, and Shelby counties include legal advocacy, crisis counseling, transportation, prevention and awareness training, and personal advocacy. With only 3% of victims seeking shelter, these outreach programs are key to meeting the needs of 97% of domestic violence victims in the communities where they live and work.

The battle against domestic violence is fought one incident, one victim, and one family at a time. Turning Point positively impacts the lives of hundreds of families from all walks of life each year. Together we can make a difference.

Sincerely,  
*Kris W. Kindelsperger*  
President, Turning Point Board of Directors

### 2003 Program Statistics

#### In Shelter

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adults Served	154	174	152	192
Children Served	212	242	161	187
Crisis Calls	1,560	2,285	2,848	2,424
Number of Units of Service	5,934	6,033	4,990	6,154

#### Community Outreach Statistics

Crisis Calls	346
Families Served	951
Personal Advocacy	472
Legal Advocacy	794
Crisis Counseling	375

### 2003 Financial Statement

#### Income

State and Federal	\$337,292
United Way Funds	\$240,987
Contributions/Foundation	\$157,466
Operating Income	\$735,745
Capital Improvements	\$20,738
Total Income	\$756,483

#### Expenses

Personnel	\$593,220
Facilities	\$70,752
Operations	\$122,828
Total Expenses	\$786,800

\* Audited Financial Statement available upon request.

## Services

### ❁ Emergency Shelter

22-bed facility for female and male victims of domestic violence/sexual assault and their dependent children. Food, clothing and personal care items provided. Transportation arranged to and from shelter.

### ❁ Education, Prevention, Training

Community training, domestic violence awareness presentations, psycho-educational support groups, agency collaborations and domestic violence education.

### ❁ Outreach Services

Individualized domestic violence services to meet the needs of out-of-shelter victims and their children. Crisis intervention, community education and awareness, and information and referral.

### ❁ Goal Planning

Victims empowered to achieve a violence-free lifestyle. Healthy, interdependent relationships are encouraged. Safety planning, crisis intervention, assessment, stabilization, education, and community resourcing and networking.

### ❁ Advocacy/Case Management

Comprehensive, individualized case management services using a client-centered, strength-based, solution-focused family systems model.

### ❁ Children's Program

Safety, child advocacy, assessment, special needs resourcing, family case management, support groups, domestic violence education and school liaison.

### ❁ 24 Hour Toll-Free Help/Crisis Line 1-800-221-6311.

Call does not appear on caller's phone statement.

### ❁ Legal Advocacy Program

Filing Emergency Protective Orders, advising and supporting clients before Permanent Protective Order hearings, providing information about divorce, child custody, child support, law enforcement and public assistance issues, and referring victims to attorneys and other social service agencies.

United Way agencies provide over 30% of the funding for Turning Point services. Please give generously to support your local fund drive.



89% of individuals surveyed believed they understood more about the causes and prevention of domestic violence after completing our program.

## 2003 Staff

Executive Director:  
Development Director:  
Financial Manager:

### Administrative Staff:

Pat Smith  
Melinda Sprague-Huffer  
Susan Thiessen

### Program Staff:

Advocates:  
Lori Adams  
Nicki Babb  
Connie Chandler  
Elaine Daugherty  
Dana Fisher  
Jane Huffman  
Rhea Murray  
Amy Huffman Oliver  
M.J. Shireman

Alycia, Bessie, Carolyn, LaVonda,  
Paul, Sarah, Arriann, Jessica  
Johnson County Community Service Director  
Shelby County Community Service Director  
Jefferson County Community Service Director  
Case Manager  
Director of Residential Services  
Children and Youth Academic Tutor  
Jackson County Community Service Director  
Director of Legal Services  
Children's Advocate



## Turning Point

Domestic Violence Services

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

hope@turningpointdv.org

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Columbus, IN  
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### Domestic Violence Training Provides Support for Local County Prosecutor's Office

Prosecutors and their victim advocates from 10 counties recently attended an all-day training on domestic violence hosted by Turning Point and the Brown County Prosecutor's Office. Attendees were offered an opportunity to study recent court decisions that relate to difficult domestic violence cases and develop relationships with their neighboring counties. In addition, small group sessions allowed prosecutors and advocates to share how their county approaches issues such as bond, sentencing, and courthouse safety.

Turning Point provided information about its supportive services and a tour of the shelter. "We want to give prosecutors and their staffs the tools and support they need to stand tough against abusers, even when victims are too afraid to assist them," said Pat Smith, Turning Point Executive Director.



Cindy Weisner and Crys McInerney, victim assistants in the Bartholomew County Prosecutor's Office, participated in Turning Point's recent Prosecutor's Summit.

### Turning Point Services

Year-to-date through 9/30/04

#### "In Shelter" Services

Number of Adult Clients Served	151
Number of Children Clients Served	153
Crisis Line Calls	2273
Number of Units* (Nights of Shelter)	4459

\* Unit = 1 night of shelter

#### Outreach Services

Clients Served	365
Crisis Calls	374
Personal Advocacy	933
Legal Advocacy	795
Crisis Counseling	851

### Board of Directors

Julie Abedian, President  
Columbus Regional Hospital Foundation

Tiffany Baker, Board Secretary  
Jackson County Advisory Board

Courtney Carr, Business Development Director  
Force Construction Company

Richard Gold, President, Brinks, Inc.

Thomas Hajewski, Board Treasurer  
Certified Public Accountant

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President, Johnson, Grossnickle and Associates, Inc.

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Asst. VP and Trust Officer, Irwin Union Bank

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Cummins Inc.

Stephanie Pierret, Attorney

Jeanne Saylor, Management Specialist  
United Parcel Service

Kathryn Lowe-Schneider, Associate Dean  
of Students, Hanover College

Patrick J. Smith, Executive Director  
Turning Point

Color Me Mine



The Art Of Having Fun.

**JOIN US ON FRIDAY, NOV. 5**

*Color Me Mine Pottery at The Commons Mall  
Will Donate a % of their Sales to Turning Point.*

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