When victims of domestic violence leave their abusers, many immediately fall into poverty and homelessness. Frequently, at this point, they re-assess their decision to leave their abuser because of the negative impact of poverty and homelessness is having, not only on them, but on their children. Some return to the abusers because they assessed poverty and homelessness was causing greater harm to their children than living in a home where there is sporadic violence.

In August 2014, a client with three children began receiving services from Turning Point. She had left her abusive husband who was both physically and mentally abusive. The physical abuse she experienced required she have frequent hospitalizations. She left when her husband began abusing verbally and physically abusing their children as well. Prior coming to TP, the client had spent the last six weeks “couch surfing” by staying temporarily at homes of friends and relatives.

Turning Point’s primary focus is on the safety of the client and her children. Homelessness was assessed to be highest risk for compromising the safety for her and her family. Unless, her homelessness could be addressed, it was inevitable that she would return to the home where so much violence was perpetrated. To address homelessness she first had to find employment. She had a spotty work history because he would sabotage her employment by calling her at work repeatedly to threaten he was going to leave their young children home alone. Finding a job when you don’t have a physical address hampers procuring a job.

She began receiving case management services from Turning Point to assist her in addressing the many barriers she had to overcome to establish a stable home, free from violence for her and her family. When she found employment, she and her children were alternating between staying in motels and couch surfing. Eventually, after TP connected client with community resources, she was able to obtain a low-income housing. Turning Point was able to assist with the deposit and first month’s rent. Client is now sustaining her household and her family in a violence free environment. After establishing her new home, she sent a personal note to Turning Point that said, “I can’t thank Turning Point enough for all your help. I feel blessed to have Turning Point in my life.”