**A Turning Point volunteer & donor talks about why she supports Turning Point…**

When did you get involved with Turning Point?

I was working at Cummins at the time and received a notice that Turning Point was in need of volunteers to help with a mailing/stuffing envelopes. That is how I first became involved. It was close to the time of the United Way building fire and after that, I helped copy papers with smoke damage. I also supported the former Development Director with In Kind entry and other administration volunteer roles. I have volunteered a few times at Shelter sorting clothes, cleaning client rooms, and wrapping Christmas gifts.

What motivates you to stay involved?

My motivation stems from being a victim of Domestic Violence myself in my first marriage. I got a divorce around 1975, so was dealing with the dv issues before Turning Point was in existence. The situation that motivated me to leave this violent relationship was when my children saw my ex-husband abusing me. At that point, I had the strength to get a divorce. I often went to work with bruises. My coworkers were very supportive and it helped that my abuse was visual-ie physical bruises, etc. I see family members (sister/daughter) withstand severe mental and emotional abuse. I think it is much harder for women when the abuse is emotional and unseen to others.

In your opinion, what is the most important work that this organization does?

I think the prevention and emergency shelter services are both so important. I am very impressed with the education of teens through the Safe Dates curriculum and prevention work TP teaches in the schools. I wonder why this education isn’t required/available in all schools-nationwide? I wish my grandchildren could have the information provided in the Safe Dates curriculum-education about differences between healthy/unhealthy relationships.

What do you hope Turning Point will achieve in the near future? In the long term?

To use statistics that shows that the Dance Marathon and Prevention work are decreasing domestic violence and use to prove this. Every teen needs this information. I hope over time with all the prevention efforts, we won’t need the transitional housing and that every bed at the Shelter won’t be full.

What has surprised you the most about volunteering for Turning Point?

I am always so appreciated anytime I volunteer for TP. This is very different from working in the corporate world where you don’t get that kind of appreciation. Feeling so appreciated makes me want to volunteer more! I did work for TP filling in the Development Associate role for 3 months in between employees and from that experience I realized how dedicated and passionate those that work in this field are. That impressed me because I know TP employees aren’t doing it for the money.

When you last volunteered or made a donation, how did that make you feel?

I give money and volunteer for Turning Point because it is a good cause to support. I enjoy data base work and I feel like I am helping when I volunteer. I include my volunteer time as a “donation” to the organization.

When your friends/family find out that you volunteer/donate to Turning Point, what do they say or ask?

My family wasn’t really aware of Turning Point and the services offered. They were aware of my own experience as a victim of DV. Some of my sister and families believe it is important to support out of country missions/causes.