**Your Gifts Provide Help for Today & Hope for Tomorrow**

**Your gifts** impact not only victims of domestic violence but also the teens we seek to educate in order to decrease incidents of violence in future generations. Read below one such story that shows how the Turning Point Community Service Director (CSD) role of both working with victims and presenting dating violence prevention presentations in the schools can and does overlap.

Dating violence prevention is presented to health classes in schools throughout Turning Point’s area of service each year covering such topics as**:** types of abuse, **healthy relationship traits**, safe and effective communication skills, and **tools to help a friend who may be a victim or an abuser**.

Each session the students are given surveys and **are encouraged to ask the questions they did not want to ask in front of their classmates.** One day, the CSD received an **anonymous comment where the student shared that her mother was currently in an emotionally and physically abusive relationship**. The CSD shared the comment with all the classes, **provided safety planning tips if a student should be exposed to violence in their homes and suggested the students share the curriculum with their parents who were being abused**. The CSD frequently wondered what the outcome was for that student and the student’s mother.

A woman contacted the Non-Residential Services County Office. She explained that her husband recently bloodied her nose and strangled her in front of her children. **Turning Point provided** **legal advocacy** **services** as the victim pursued a protective order and a divorce. The client received **long term case management services** and extensive **domestic violence education.** The client was connected with community resources, **assisted in finding affordable housing**, and financial resources to pay for the deposit and first month’s rent. The client **procured a job that paid a living wage**. It was amazing to watch this woman make incredible strides in her personal development and in becoming self-sufficient now that she felt safe.

*TEXT BOX* *-Shaded* “My daughter knows you. You presented Safe Dates to her health class. She came home and shared all that she was learning with me and encouraged me to take that first step to leave my abusive marriage. I did because I saw the impact domestic violence was having not only on me but on my children.”

The mother modeled for her daughter how one should not tolerate abuse, **how to overcome challenges** by **seeking out the proper assistance and using community resources**, and how to create a life that is no longer under the oppressing thumb of violence.

One day the CSD was walking down the school’s hallway, when a female student caught her eye. The student made deliberate eye contact and mouthed the words, **“Thank you!”** and smiled radiantly. This was the first direct experience where the CSD could see that **prevention and intervention go together like a hand to a glove.**