

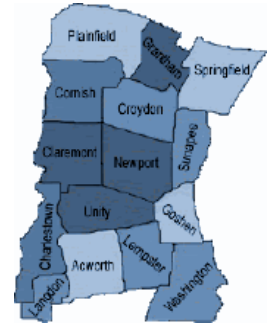
TURNING POINTS NETWORK

- ◆ *Preventing Violence*
- ◆ *Promoting Respect*
- ◆ *Strengthening Lives*

2010-2011 Annual Report

Agency Overview

Turning Points Network is the only crisis center in Sullivan County serving victims and survivors of domestic violence, sexual abuse and stalking. We have been serving Sullivan County for 34 years. TPN enhances the safety and well-being of families, women, men, teens and children through advocacy and empowerment. We teach our children, pre-school through high school about safety and respect for self and others. We educate our community to stop victim blaming, hold abusers accountable, and we help community members to help someone they know who is a victim of violence



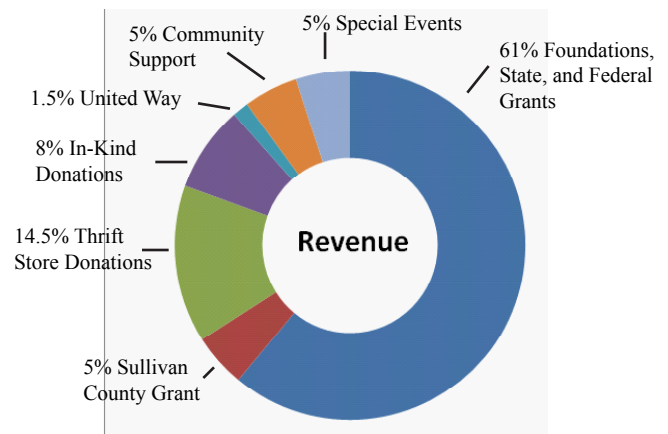
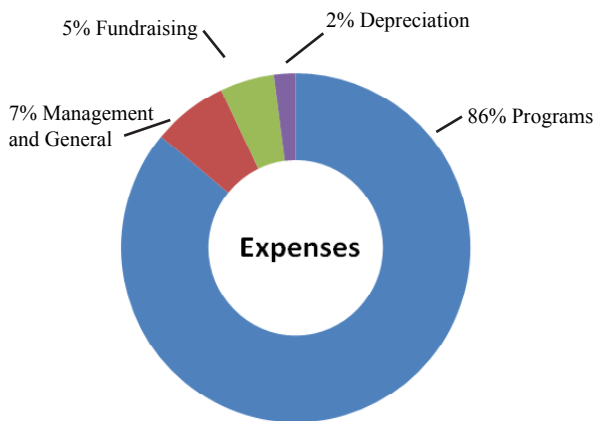
Turning Points has served Sullivan County for 35 years

Turning Points Network strives to provide services regardless of gender, age, health status, including HIV-positive, physical, mental or emotional ability, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, socio-economic status, race, national origin, immigration status, or religious or political affiliations.

Volunteers remain the backbone of this agency. Without them we would not provide our services 24 hours a day, 365 days a year; we would not be providing the quality programs they help design and implement, nor would TPN be as cost effective as it is.

There is no fee for any intervention/direct service provided by TPN. Services are often needed immediately and most survivors do not have immediate access to finances nor could they access them safely. Survivors do, however, contribute to this agency's work in a myriad of ways, including participating in TPN fundraisers, making cash donations when they can and becoming volunteers.

Programs are funded by federal, state, local and private grants, revenue from CHANGES Thrift Store, fundraising events and donations from individuals and friends like you.



Direct Services

Impact and Services

365 days a year, 24 hours a day, Turning Points Network reduces violence in Sullivan County and enhances the safety of victims. Every day, TPN reduces the impact of trauma experienced by victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, sexual harassment and stalking. Response to a victim's disclosure of abuse correlates with trauma symptoms. The amount of time between the victim's readiness to disclose the trauma and the actual disclosure, and if the victim feels believed and supported at the time of disclosure are the two strongest indicators of the long term effects of trauma on that survivor. By being available 24 hours a day, assuring the strictest of confidentiality, and training our advocates based on former victims' feedback and current best practices, our response to victims is the best in the area of victim services. Enhancing this response even further is our ability to accept anonymous calls, not charge for services, provide accessible space, and provide access to interpreters, thereby eliminating final barriers to disclosing and healing.

Survivors and Services

TPN provided services to 976 survivors of abuse and families in transition over the last year.

Economic Independence

Peer Counseling

Support Groups

Shelter

Court Advocacy

Accompaniment

Information & Referrals

Child Advocacy

Crisis & Support Line

Direct services are provided to:
Female and male victims and survivors
Adults and teens
Children who have been impacted by domestic violence
Friends and family of survivors

Direct services are provided through:
Two offices, located in Claremont and Newport
A 24 crisis and support line
A 24-hour shelter/safe home program

Services are not prescribed at TPN. Survivors determine which services they want and how much assistance they need from our agency. This empowerment model respects each individual's autonomy, support system, fears, and power of choice creating the opportunity for each survivor to determine the services that are most meaningful and safe and the opportunity to gain back control.

TPN values diversity, thereby enhancing our ability to be accessible to all victims. TPN is a culturally competent agency. We are prepared and can adapt services to meet the needs of survivors from every culture along with survivors of any gender identity, faith, race, age, gender, who have any disability or illness and who speak any language.

Services at TPN are survivor driven. Programs and services were initially created by survivors, staff and volunteers to meet the unmet, critical needs of survivors; services continue to be changed, enhanced and expanded to meet their changing and growing needs. Survivors fully participate in the policy and practice levels at TPN and many survivors return as volunteers, staff and board members.

New Direct Services Program Highlights In 2011

Lethality Assessment Program, LAP TPN and several police departments in Sullivan County, at the behest of the Attorney General's office, implemented Sullivan County LAP. The goal of this program is to prevent domestic violence homicides, serious injury, and re-assault by encouraging more victims to utilize the support and shelter services of domestic violence programs like TPN. Through this program, law enforcement identify victims at serious risk of lethality and connect them with TPN while at the home of a victim. During LAP's first year, law enforcement identified and referred 27 domestic violence victims at high risk of lethality to TPN.

The Lethality Assessment Program is based on three bodies of significant research by Dr. Jacquelyn Campbell, of The John Hopkins University School of Nursing, spanning 25 years:

- 1) Only 4% of domestic violence murder victims nationwide had ever availed themselves of domestic violence program services;
- 2) In 50% of domestic violence related homicides, officers had previously responded to a call on the scene; and
- 3) The re-assault of domestic violence victims in high

What does it mean to have
a safe place to stay?

"I am glad the shelter was here ...It is absolutely a safe place to be and a place I can get plans together for the future. I appreciate it.

The support is nice, and it is nice to be able to discuss issues without having to deal with somebody putting you down and judging you.

The support group has been awesome...to hear other people's stories has been very supportive and helps me feel like I am not alone in this."

-Shelter Guest

Domestic violence shelters save lives.

danger was reduced by 60% if they went into shelter.

The LAP is a two-pronged intervention process that features a lethality screening tool and an accompanying referral protocol that provides direction for officers to initiate appropriate action based on the results of the screening process. The process begins when an officer arrives at the scene of a domestic violence call. The officer assesses the situation. When the standards that indicate danger are met, the officer will ask the victim to answer a series of eleven questions from the “Lethality Screen for First Responders.”

If the victim’s response to the questions indicates an increased risk for homicide, the officer initiates the referral protocol calling TPN and connecting the victim with an advocate. The victim can choose to talk with the advocate or not. If she/he does, the advocate provides further assessment, safety planning, and describes further services available to the survivor at that time and in the future. If the survivor decides not to talk with the advocate, the officer gets back on the phone and the advocate assists the officer with safety planning for the survivor.

At this time, law enforcement agencies working with TPN to implement LAP are: Claremont, Croydon, Springfield and Washington.

Child Advocacy Program at TPN Another significant community need in which TPN is making strides is that of children witnessing domestic violence. TPN is collaborating with the Division for Children, Youth and Families and the Courts to design a model of intervention that is protective and keeps together the child witness and the adult in the household who is being abused and is a safe parent. Simultaneously, TPN has designed a new agency program that provides interventions to children who witness domestic violence and their safe parents. Interventions are provided to children residing in the shelter and children of adult survivors who receive services through a TPN office or the crisis line.

Economic Independence Program, EIP Combining available federal funds, local resources and TPN case management, survivors of violence have the opportunity to return to school to finish their high school education, go to college to obtain a degree and/or find a job that meets their financial needs. TPN advocates work with survivors and their children to break down barriers to achieving self-sufficiency by working out child care, transportation, mom’s readiness to go back to school or seek employment, linking survivors with mentors, and navigating the web of community services and resources available to survivors such as tuition and job readiness programs. TPN advocates work with families for up to 18 months championing them on to realize their own determined goals for self-sufficiency and the goal of never having to rely on an abusive partner again for financial security. Last year 31 survivors participated in the EIP and 26 have realized their goals.

Hear from two survivors who successfully completed their programs. Their names have been changed to protect their anonymity.

Amy: “For the first time in my life, I feel safe. And it is the first time I have ever considered where I live a home.” Amy now has safe permanent housing that she can afford and is able to rely on her own income to support herself and her two children.

Beth: “I first met TPN advocates when I went to court to petition for a restraining order. The court advocate put me in touch with an advocate from their Economic Independence program. She helped me realize I could fend for myself. I used to be an independent person and responsible for myself. Things changed during my marriage and I did not realize how much I had to change and how unsure of myself I became. Now I have obtained a certification, have a job and just recently received a significant raise and benefits. I didn’t know I had this in me, but TPN did and I am so thankful for them.” Beth also has safe permanent housing, a job she loves, and financial security for herself and her children.

This is a highly successful program. We want to thank the mentors, landlords, employers, community colleges, mechanics, community and state employment related agencies and good friends who have helped the survivors in this program realize their successes.

Sullivan County Department of Corrections TPN advocates are providing individual peer counseling to survivors of sexual and domestic violence who are incarcerated at the Sullivan County DoC in Unity. Advocates also provide a 4-week educational group to survivors of domestic violence, which includes the correlation between experiencing the trauma of domestic violence and substance abuse and mental illness. TPN hopes to expand this work this year to include parent/child relationships and assistance in preparing for release and keeping safe in the community.

Community Education

School Based Education

Turning Points Network's Violence Prevention Education Program decreases the number of victims and perpetrators of dating violence, sexual abuse, sexual harassment and other violent and non-violent crimes. Our community educators work with school administrators, teachers, staff and students on issues of bullying, cyberbullying, relational aggression, sexual harassment, dating violence, personal safety, healthy relationships, self-esteem and gender stereotyping. Programs are designed to impact both individual behavior and the school environment. As individuals gain skills and knowledge they become empowered to behave in positive, respectful ways. In turn the school climate improves, creating a safe, healthy learning environment that promotes positive behavior.

School-Based Education

2,325 students received a total of 279 programs, including:

146 Connect With Respect

57 Sexual Harassment

21 Healthy Dating Relationships

55 Special Programs

Our Community Educators are committed to working with all Sullivan County schools by utilizing presentations, workshops, materials and alternative programming methods in an effort to increase healthy decision-making and assertive behaviors for Pre-K-12th grade students. Through interactive instruction and practice, students have ongoing opportunities to gain real skills that will serve them throughout their lifetime.

School administrators are offered TPN's resources and experience as they strive to design and implement policies and procedures that address bullying and harassment. Training programs for faculty, administration and parent's groups about the issues of bullying, cyberbullying, relational aggression, harassment, healthy relationships, sexual abuse, sexual harassment and gender equity are offered to each school. Schools that receive this training are then able to provide critical daily support for students and reinforce the messages given in TPN presentations.

A vital component of TPN's mission is to decrease the number of potential victims and abusers through prevention education. Students who complete classes can:

- Identify risk reduction techniques;
- Identify risk behaviors that contribute to perpetration;
- Identify healthy relationships and identify warning signs of dating violence;
- Assist one another in stopping and reporting abuse;
- Play an important role in creating a safe, healthy learning environment; and
- Seek alternatives to violence to express their needs and emotions.

The following is a brief description of school-based programming offered last year:

Pre-Kindergarten-Kindergarten: The Hands Are Not For Hitting Program focuses on foundations of respect for others and social skills. Using a book and guided activity, the program is a fun, age appropriate way to teach and practice positive behavior.

Grades 1-5: The Connect With Respect Program is anchored to the concepts of respect, kindness, caring and empathy. Students learn to identify and recognize the difference between respectful and disrespectful behaviors in themselves and others. Through guided discussion and activities, students are taught age appropriate ways to stand up for themselves, how to be bystanders that stand up for others and how to get help from adults when needed.

Grades 6-12: The Respectful Relationships/Sexual Harassment Program is designed for students transitioning into adolescence and young adulthood. Continuing the concepts learned in Connect With Respect, students discuss bullying and harassing behavior, including covert behaviors (exclusion, gossip, rumors) and explore the wide range of behaviors that are considered bullying and sexual harassment. Students learn about the detrimental effects of bullying and sexual harassment on individuals and the school environment, then develop techniques to take positive action when they witness or experience bullying and harassment.

Grades 2-5: Body Safety Program allows students to define personal safety and identify situations and individuals that may be unsafe. Through guided discussions and age appropriate activities students are taught ways to protect their personal safety and seek help from trusted adults.

Grades 6-8: Personal Safety/Sexual Abuse Prevention is designed for middle school students. Building on the concepts learned in the Body Safety Program, students explore their own instincts, boundaries and beliefs regarding safety. The program also reviews risk reduction strategies, healthy decision-making and the importance of seeking help from a trusted adult.

Grades 8-12: The Healthy Relationships/Dating Violence Program helps students identify qualities present in a healthy relationship and warning signs in an unhealthy relationship. Guided discussion increases understanding of the dynamics of dating violence and examines many of the common myths about dating violence. Students are given crucial information about how to help a friend or seek help for themselves.

Grades 9-12: The Sexual Assault Awareness and Risk Reduction Program increases students' understanding of the wide range of behaviors that may be classified as sexual assault. Students also learn about the effects sexual violence may have on a survivor, and they are given valuable resource information

General Community Education & Outreach

In addition to TPN's school-based violence prevention education, the agency offered workshops and training for community groups and organizations. Topics included domestic violence, screening and safety planning, the effects of domestic violence on children, TPN services and referrals, gender and media literacy, and child sexual abuse.

In addition to workshops and training, TPN coordinated outreach for Stalking Awareness Month in January, Sexual Assault Awareness Month in April and Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October. Awareness activities included: media outreach to local newspapers, flyers with agency information for social service agencies as well as the general public, window displays in local businesses, and collaboration with River Valley Community College to display information for students.

Highlights of Education and Outreach Program for fiscal year 2011 include:

Education

- Lethality Assessment Program (LAP) training for law enforcement
- Film Screening "Dreamworlds"—images of women in music video
- Training for Court Appointed Special Advocates about the effects of domestic violence on children

- “Darkness to Light” trainings about child sexual abuse prevention with the Child Advocacy Center
- Collaboration with the Sugar River Valley Professional Development Center to provide films and workshops about gender and media

Outreach

TPN also organized and participated in several community awareness events, activities and fundraisers throughout the year. We are fortunate to have so many strong relationships with individual and organizations who support the work of TPN.

- 5th Annual “Steppin’ Up To End Violence” Walk drew nearly 400 walkers, who raised an amazing \$40,000 for TPN programs and services.
- Annual Flower Tour and Plant Sale in Unity hosted by Sue Lawrence and Andrew Williams
- Sale of Lucinda Pins throughout Sullivan County.
- Beneficiary of the Annual “Defeat Domestic Violence” tournament at NIMMA (National Institute of Modern Martial Arts) in Claremont.
- Benefit dinner at The Common Man restaurant in Claremont raised \$2400.

Community Action: Highlights and Helping



4-H Clover Buddies donate the harvest from their home garden community service project to families in TPN’s shelter.



Holiday Shopping

Kristy Heath of Springfield, NH organizes a “Holiday Shopping Event” each year in Grantham. As part of the event, she coordinates a silent auction with items donated by participating crafters and home businesses. Proceeds from the auction are generously given to TPN. Do you have an idea to help

Donate Your Used Car

Running or not, you can donate your used vehicle to help TPN. CARS-4-US will pick up your vehicle, sell it, and donate the proceeds to us. Call 1-877-227-7487, ext. 2689. Boats, RVs, snowmobiles and even airplanes too.



Members of the Afternoon Circle from South Congregational Church, UCC, Newport, NH donate laundry soap to TPN’s shelter throughout the year!

Stop Bullying

TPN Educators provided bullying prevention and intervention training to over 600 school faculty and staff in Claremont, Newport, Cornish, Unity, Goshen and Sunapee last year. This training will continue to help stop bullying of all forms in our schools. If your school or organization would like to learn more, please call TPN.