



# Turningpoint for Victims of Domestic & Sexual Violence, Inc.

Summer Edition

August 2011



## New Text Hotline

Turningpoint is committed to providing services in a variety of ways to ensure clients have an easy and safe way to contact us when in crisis. Therefore, we have implemented a text hotline for clients to use to reach out for help.

TEXT 715-821-8626 for 24 hour support. Here are some positive features of the text hotline:

- Easier to contact us if abuser is around
- Young people are more likely to contact us if they have an anonymous way to do so
- We can contact emergency services for people quickly so they don't have to risk a verbal phone call
- A chance to build rapport with clientele before they feel comfortable enough to call or come in
- Deaf community would have easier access to resources
- Texting is easier and less emotional which some clients may need at the time



### Thank you Dave's Automotive of River Falls!

Dave and his wonderful staff have helped our clients with their car maintenance at a moments notice.

We truly appreciate the kindness you have shown our clients!

## 1,121 Students Participated in this Year's April Coloring Contest

Each year Turningpoint holds a coloring contest for Child Abuse Prevention month. This year we had nine schools participate for a total of 1,121 students! That was a huge increase from the previous year of 255 students. The winning pictures are showcased on our Facebook page! Check them out if you haven't already.

**Here are the 2011 WINNERS!** Prairie View Elementary: Ethan, Wyatt Nelson, Hannah Hinrichs, Logan Peterson, Katie Runyon. St. Francis School: Kayley Bayer, RaeAnn Jungmann, Brianna Giese, Kaitlyn Nugent, Jenna Giese, Julia VanWatermeulen. Hillcrest Elementary: Miaelle Gardas, Shayla Gilbertson, Drew Hines, Devin Denzer, Paige Frion. Ellsworth Middle School: Chase Gilbertson. SCC Elementary: Madison Morgan, Krysta Gary, Mackenzie Abraham, Hank Berger. Malone Elementary: Ava Johnson, Virgil Jensen, Shelby Schultz, Shane Rowan, Grace Schutz, Kayla Goeppinger. Viking Middle School: Macy Wieland. Plum City Elementary: Derek Lifto, Julianne Mejia, Elijah Gansluckner, Grali Foley, Mckenzie Raethke, Bekah Henn. Rocky Branch Elementary: Erin Strub, Ally Rixmann, Annika Sylvander, Jack Blaubach, Joey Jaworski, Gina Filkins. **Congratulations students!**

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## Important Dates:

- October 8th, 2011- Walk to Empower in Prescott (see insert)
- April 2012-Pottery for Prevention in Hudson



*Pictured above. The employees of 1st National Bank of River Falls donated over \$1300 worth of school supplies! THANK YOU!*

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## A word from the Director



**Courage or Fear.** As I talk with Executive Directors from domestic and sexual violence advocacy programs throughout the state, I hear a common theme “We are so much busier than last year and the needs are so much greater.” Locally we are seeing the same rapid increase in demand for services. From January 1, 2011 to July 31, 2011 Turningpoint for Victims of Domestic and Sexual Violence, Inc experienced a 20% increase in the number of nights of safety and 24% increase in the

hours of individual advocacy provided compared to the same time period in 2010. Two potential causes for this increase include the stress families have been under due to economic challenges along with a reduction in government funded programs and services. A survivor that may have had one barrier preventing them from leaving an abusive partner in the past, i.e. no car, now may have four, i.e. no job, no car, no insurance and fewer resources to access. At Turningpoint we are working as a team to meet the increased demands for service by effectively using all of our resources, capitalizing on dedicated volunteers and creative fundraising strategies. As an organization we need to continue acting with courage and modeling our agencies behavior after the brave survivors that we serve every day. In modeling courage, we will continue to work together with our community partners and do whatever is necessary to provide services to women, men and children who have been impacted by domestic and/or sexual violence. On a daily basis, we are providing quality comprehensive services to many survivors but we need to do more. Traditionally underserved populations have many additional barriers to accessing services and to effectively serve them; we will need to be courageous and strategic in our actions. We need to do more for teenagers, elderly, disabled, LGBTQ, and culturally diverse groups. Help us reach these groups by joining us on October 8th at the WALK TO EMPOWER! -Kim Wojcik, Executive Director

*I have learned over the years that when one's mind is made up, this diminishes fear; knowing what must be done does away with fear.*

—Rosa Parks

## Interested in Volunteering???

Turningpoint runs on volunteers. We count on our volunteers to help us reach out to the community and perform special events like Pottery for Prevention and the Walk to Empower. Some volunteers watch over and play with children while others provide transportation to clients in need. Those who have the capability and are willing to make a long term commitment, answer the crisis line and become advocates for our clients. We appreciate all our volunteers for choosing to spend their free time with us. All skill levels and abilities are valued and needed. If you have any free time & would like to spend it helping others, please fill out our online application. There is always a job waiting to be done. For more information, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Virginia Castro at 715-425-6751 ext. 101 or virginia@turningpoint-wi.org.

## A Poem Written by a Survivor

Play, rewind, pause.

Your body becomes my cage and  
your breath holds me down like  
bricks.

My screams of terror caress you like  
rose petals, yet your smile hits me  
like a boulder.

My fear is your twisted invitation.  
Devastated my mind is imprisoned  
to your memory.

Raped of the beauty claimed in  
innocence, raped of the beauty  
claimed by God.

You latch to my flesh aside chaotic  
struggle. Soul turns to vapor.....

Play, rewind, pause.

Slow motion now, frame by frame  
reverse.

"You survived!" she said.

Bruised by his grasp, blinded by his  
betrayal. I suffocate in paralyzing  
fear.

Body in rapid seizure. I close my  
eyes now...

Play, rewind, pause.

Lost somewhere in a tormented  
freedom, I failed me under your  
triumph.

Backed I fight, intentions trapped.  
Worthless boundaries in a clock  
that ticks.

Broken I cry. Empty- I lay face  
down, gripping the grains of sand.  
Robbed of myself I die once more.

Play, rewind, pause...

Attacked by memory, traumatized  
in dream.

Play, rewind, pause.

-SCB

# Summer Enrichment Program June—August 2011

This summer the children at the shelter were able to take part in three months of fun! Throughout the summer, the children had FREE weekly bowling trips to St. Croix Lanes in River Falls, where we took part in the Kids Bowl Free program and St. Croix Lanes gave the children shoe rental at no cost for the entire summer. In addition, we made weekly trips to the Grow to Share Garden in River Falls. Josh with Grow to Share met the children out at the garden



every Tuesday with fun activities. We attempted to plant a sun flower fort, made a scare crow (that the children named Justin Bieber), watered plants and picked produce among other things. In June, we attended River Falls Town N' Country Day—the kids had a blast playing games, eating ice cream and getting their face painted and hair colored crazy colors! We were also lucky and received free tickets to the Twins/Royals baseball game at Target Field in July! It was a hot, humid, summer

day, but the staff and kids had a blast! Also in July we made a trip to the Children's Museum in St. Paul. They enjoyed dressing up in their favorite profession and playing the part. We spent most of the time in the grocery store and restaurant play areas. Our big trip for August was to the Pierce County Fair in Ellsworth. The children enjoyed petting the animals, watching the children's shows and going on rides! THANK YOU to everyone who helped make this year's summer enrichment program a success!!!!



*Thank You to our Board Members for all their hard work and dedication they show throughout the year!*

## Board of Directors

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## January-June 2011 Statistics

**339 Women, men, and children served**

**41 Children 5 years of age or younger served**

**1,692 Nights of safety**

**2,503 Hours of support**

**5,076 Meals provided**



**TURNINGPOINT FOR  
VICTIMS OF  
DOMESTIC & SEXUAL  
VIOLENCE, INC.**

P.O. Box 304  
River Falls, WI 54022

Business Phone: 715-425-6751  
Crisis Line: 800-345-5104  
Fax: 715-425-6908  
*Return Service Requested*

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**River Falls, WI  
54022**



We're on the Web!  
[www.turningpoint-wi.org](http://www.turningpoint-wi.org)



Go Green! If you would like to receive this newsletter **via email only**, please send an email to [jenk@turningpoint-wi.org](mailto:jenk@turningpoint-wi.org).

**Turningpoint  
Support Groups**  
**Women's Support  
Group**  
**Children's Support  
Group**  
**Sexual Assault Support  
Group**  
Please call Turningpoint  
for times and locations.  
*All services are free and  
confidential.*



Another way to interact with Turningpoint for Victims of Domestic & Sexual Violence, Inc. is to find us on Facebook and Twitter. Search for "Turningpoint" on Facebook and "Turningpoint RF" on Twitter.

