Ribbon Cutting Ceremony marks official opening
Turning Point Completes Its Move into New Facility at Barnert Medical Arts Complex

Sunlight streamed brightly into the men’s lounge on the 4th floor of Barnert Medical Arts Complex on December 9, 2010. Crisp rows of empty chairs faced the front of the room where a loop of photos from Turning Point’s past and present flashed on the screen behind the waiting podium. A buffet of breakfast pastries waited temptingly as did a wide swath of dark green ribbon.

Very shortly, the ribbon would be sliced in half and Turning Point’s per-

Your generosity was overwhelming!
Turning Point’s “Home At Last!” Gala Welcomes Joe Frazier and Raises Nearly $110,000

With its “Home at Last!” theme etched in a beautiful ice sculpture and Joe Frazier on hand to celebrate with guests, Turning Point’s annual Benefit Gala raised nearly $110,000 for treatment programs designed to help clients break free of their alcohol and drug addictions.

The highlight of the event, held last October 7 at the elegant Crystal Plaza in Livingston, was Smokin’ Joe’s rock-
**IN MEMORY**

John Tully, pictured below during the mid-1970’s while he was Executive Director of Turning Point, passed away on September 30, 2010. John spent 50 years of his life assisting countless men and women who wanted to break free of their addiction to alcohol and drugs. He leaves a lasting legacy at Turning Point, in the recovery community and beyond.

Many of the Turning Point supporters who had made this moment possible began to arrive. Guests included past and present members of Turning Point’s Board of Trustees, generous donors, representatives from state and county funding agencies, colleagues from other agencies in the addiction field, those who owned or helped renovate the new facility, and local government officials.

Dr. Manuel Guantez, Executive Director, welcomed guests and noted in his remarks that “this is a moment filled with hope and opportunity not only for Turning Point but, especially, for all those who walk through our doors.” Dr. Brant Cali, Secretary of Turning Point’s Board of Trustees, described how several major challenges had been overcome in the years since 1998 when Turning Point began its quest to find a new home.

Raquel Mazon Jeffers, Director of the Division of Addiction Services, NJ Department of Human Services, noted the deep need for Turning Point’s services and expressed confidence in the agency’s ability to continue meeting that need for many years to come. Paterson Mayor Jeffery Jones welcomed Turning Point to the city and noted how important it is to have a high quality facility like Turning Point’s in Paterson.

This is the first time in Turning Point’s nearly 36-year history that the agency has had a permanent home of its own. The Board and staff are deeply grateful for your support through the years. Thanks to you, we will be able to do so much more now for our clients and for the communities we serve.

**Ribbon Cutting**

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Permanent residence at Barnert Medical Arts Complex in Paterson would be official.

Most of the members of Turning Point’s Board of Trustees attended the December 9, 2010 Ribbon Cutting Ceremony. Front row (l to r): Susan Turner (Vice President), Lena Corbo, Barbara Azzoli, Dr. Michael Festa, Stephen Della Valle (President), Kitt Greenberg, and Paterson Mayor Jeffery Jones. (Back row, r to l): Paterson Councilman Benjie E. Wimberly, Kevin Carroll, Frank Scaraggi, Dr. Manuel Guantez (Executive Director), Dr. Brant Cali (Secretary) and William O’Connor.

**Hard-Won Sobriety**

continued from page 1

assumed that his face would be beet red, his eyes glossed, and smelling like alcohol. However, that was not what I saw. My father greeted me at the door and I could tell that he was holding back how happy he really was. His hair was neatly trimmed and brushed. He wore unstained clothes and even smelled good!

When I went home, I had to cry. I never expected to see my dad like that. I was so happy because I had my dad and not some drunk guy locked in the room upstairs. I am writing this to say thank you. You helped my father recover. He has enough confidence in himself to persevere through this challenge in his life. He is a strong person and now he knows it. I go to school now and I don’t worry about how much he is hurting himself. I am proud of my father. So, again, thank you so much, Turning Point.

Lives are changed in ways such as this every day at Turning Point. It is the support of friends such as you that makes this possible. You can donate to Turning Point’s treatment programs right now by visiting www.tpnj.org and clicking the “Donate Now” button.
“I made the dreaded call”
Mom Finds Way to Deal With Son’s Addiction through Family Wellness Program

In late 2009, a local mother began to notice some behavior changes in her 27-year-old son. From signs of depression to the odor of marijuana and a new cigarette habit, things got worse until the mom finally understood that her son was abusing prescription drugs.

I was seeing things that I could not believe my son was capable of. Lying, stealing from us, borrowing money from friends and his brothers and coming in high. I was watching my tight-knit family begin to fall apart in front of my eyes. I would cry at home all the time and my biggest fear is that I am going to find my sweet, beautiful son dead in an alley or his own bed. I was slipping fast and knew I needed help. That’s when I went online and just started searching. I stumbled upon Turning Point and made the dreaded call.

This mom reluctantly found herself in one of Turning Point’s Family Wellness Program weekly education group sessions, resisting the thought that her son was a drug addict.

What was I doing here? But I stayed. I listened. I learned. And I came back. That was the decision that has made a positive change in my life and gave me hope when I thought there was none. I am learning that my situation is not unlike those of the other [group members]. I have learned practical ways to deal with my son and his behaviors—the total opposite of what I have been doing.

This [Family Wellness Program] has saved me. I attend the meetings for ME, to keep me sane and healthy so that I can deal with this life-changing problem in a way that I can live with and still look at myself in the mirror. I thank God every day that Turning Point was what first caught my eye during my computer search. Turning Point is one of the best kept secrets around and I plan on keeping it in my life for a very long time. For as long as it takes.

Sincerely,
The mother of a user

Turning Point thanks the Partners for Health Foundation for providing the initial funding for our Family Wellness Program, which offers a life-line to local families who need help understanding the disease of addiction and how to deal with a member who is actively using or abusing a substance. If your family needs help, call Turning Point at 973-239-9400 ext. 195.

If you want to support this vital community program, you can do so easily and securely by visiting www.tpnj.org and clicking the “Donate Now” button. Be sure to specify “Family Wellness Program.”

Friends and Family Continue to Remember K.J. Carroll with Generous Donations

The Carroll family and Turning Point extend their heartfelt gratitude to the following family and friends who donated to the K. J. Carroll Memorial Fund between September 1 and December 31, 2010. As of December 31, a total of $26,825 had been donated to the Fund.

September through December 2010 Donations
James J. Carroll
Michael and Joan Corbo (in memory of Agnes Wolf)
Ray and Cindy Kraus
Roger and Carolyn O’Neill
John and Donna Ranslem
Laurence and Elizabeth Schiffenhaus
Bobby and Roberta Schmidt
C. Ronald and Barbara Sturz
The Soraci Family

Construction workers make progress on the rooftop space that has since become an outdoor sanctuary for Turning Point’s male clients. This area, made possible by donations to the K. J. Carroll Memorial Fund, will be dedicated in honor of K. J. later this year. Donations continue to be accepted at www.tpnj.org.
proceeds from the Gala will be used to support Turning Point’s addiction treatment programs.

The evening was a celebration of Turning Point’s move this year into its new, custom-renovated space at Barnert Medical Arts Complex in Paterson. "There have been some challenging moments in the past several years while we looked for a place to call our own,” said Dr. Manuel Guantez, Executive Director, during the festivities. “But on a night like this, all we can feel is a sense of accomplishment and tremendous optimism for what lies ahead.”

The Board of Trustees and staff of Turning Point extend our heartfelt gratitude to the sponsors and donors who helped make the evening such a wonderful success. Patron sponsors ($10,000) included John J. Clancy of Education and Health Centers of America as well as Dr. Brant Cali and Alicia Ortiz with Merck & Co., Inc.

Benefactor Sponsors ($5,000 to $9,999) included Barbara and Val Azzoli, Kitt and Richard Greenberg, and Susan and George Turner. Our special thanks also to Steve Della Valle for providing the music; Darren Prince for arranging Joe Frazier’s appearance; and Steven R. Smith for photographing the evening’s fun. See below for a complete list of donors.
Relive the Fun: Some Highlights from the “Home at Last!” Gala

[Above, l to r] George Turner, Bob Butler, Kevin Carroll and Dr. Manuel Guantez chat before the program begins.

[Above, l to r] Dustin Davis, who was crucial to the success of Turning Point’s construction project, and Mrs. Davis spend a few moments with Dr. Manuel Guantez, Executive Director, and Trustee Dr. Brant Cali.

[Above, l to r] Steve Della Valle, President of Turning Point’s Board of Trustees, and Executive Director Dr. Manuel Guantez (right) take a jab at Joe Frazier.

Dr. Paul “Bucky” O’Connor shares a laugh with Jack Larkin.

Dr. Joseph DiSilvio is shown above with Joe Frazier after winning the live auction of a boxing glove autographed by both Joe Frazier and Muhammad Ali.

[Turning Point thanks our donors for your kind generosity]

September through December 2010 Donations

Please note: All “Home at Last!” Benefit Gala donations are listed separately in this issue of The Point.

More than $1,000
Nancy Brach ($5,000)
Kevin and Gabriella Giuliani Glenn ($4,000)
Mertz Gilmore Foundation ($3,500)
The Whitehill Foundation ($3,500)
Cook Charitable Foundation ($2,000)
The Nicholas Martini Foundation ($2,000)
Steve and Toby Rome ($1,500)

$1,000
Matthew Dancy
Frank and Gabrielle Scaraggi
Richard and Pamela Stolz

$500
Martin and Penny Mazza
Michael and Kristine O’Connor
The McGraw Hill Companies
George and Susan Turner, II

$100 to $499
Brian and Judith Bedol ($300)
In honor of Barbara Azzi
Victor and Diana Fortkiewicz ($200)

Donald Scala, MD, PC ($250)
In honor of Kim Timnas
Morgan Stanley ($200)
Robert and Susan Forte ($100)
Michael Friedman ($100)
Henry and Mary Holt ($100)
Lorraine Shell ($100)
David Farer and Elisa King ($100)
In honor of Brant Cali

Under $100
George Carrnick, Jr.
Leonard Cautela
Barry and Maria Eckardt
In honor of Brian Eckardt
Dr. Victor Groisser
Michael and Clare Haugh
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In Memory of Paul Cunningham
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In memory of Daniel Oosse
Kellie A. Kennedy
In memory of Laura Sisco
Dr. David and Beth Parker
In memory of Craig Nelson
Cynthia Serpe
In memory of Peter Finnegan

Contributions to Clients’ Thanksgiving Meal
Kevin Glenn
Kitt Greenberg
Susan Turner

Non-Monetary Donations
John DeStefano
Dr. Michael Festa
Michael and Barbara Gregory
Katherine Guantez
Rosemary Harrington
Bill O’Connor
If you’d like to help those ready to seek treatment for their disease of addiction, you can make your life-altering gift online at www.tpnj.org or send it inside the self-addressed envelope provided with this newsletter to
Turning Point Development Office
680 Broadway
Paterson, NJ 07514