

Your donor dollars at work...

Husband Shares Relief and Gratitude for Wife's Turning Point Treatment

Many families suffer from the devastating effects of their loved one's alcoholism or drug dependency. That is why Turning Point, with funding from Mountainside Health Foundation, has launched its new Family Wellness Program (see article on this page). The following letter, written by the husband of a Turning Point client, is a first-person account of a family that was nearly destroyed by addiction.

For more than a decade, [my wife's] addictive personality disorder has not only made her life totally unmanageable, but has caused chaos for our family. I wish ending her drinking and substance abuse habit would be the

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Turning Point Finally Has A Home of Its Own

Your loyal support pays off as move to Barnert Medical Arts Complex begins

For the first time since Turning Point was founded 35 years ago, the agency finally has a home to call its own. The announcement came nearly four years after Turning Point was asked to leave its long-time Hilltop location in 2006.

Dr. Manuel Guantez, Executive Director, shared the exciting news. "We've purchased a significant portion of the Barnert Medical Arts Complex at 680 Broadway in Paterson," Dr. Guantez revealed. "We're working out the details for the Women's Program to move in during the first week of February."

Plans call for the other residential programs to move in as renovations are completed. The Outpatient Program will stay at its current location on Pompton Avenue in Verona.

Dr. Guantez acknowledged that the past four years have been a challenge. Many people even thought that Turning



Barnert Medical Arts Complex, Turning Point's new home at 680 Broadway in Paterson. The agency has purchased a significant portion of the building for its residential treatment programs.

Point had shut down completely after the agency left Hilltop. "Just the opposite happened," Dr. Guantez stated. "We were determined to both survive and thrive. It took longer than we had hoped to find a new home and, in the meantime, we had to break up the units into different locations, but we've actually expanded our detoxification services and added an Outpatient Program in the past few years."

Dr. Guantez cannot thank Turning Point enough. *continued on page 2*

Turning Point Launches New Program for Families Battling Addiction

Mountainside Health Foundation recognizes need, provides funding

Turning Point announced in January that it was launching a new program that will expand its services to assist the families of those battling addiction. The program, called *Family Wellness Program: Preserving and Restoring Families Affected by Alcoholism and Drug Dependency*, will offer information about the disease of addiction, how it impacts families and how family members can get help. Professional counseling will be made available to family members who

would benefit, and they will also receive referrals to support groups and other resources within the community.

Thanks to support from Mountainside Health Foundation, families who live in one of these towns can receive Family Wellness Program services at little or no charge: Bloomfield, Caldwell, Cedar Grove, Glen Ridge, Little Falls, Montclair, North Caldwell, Roseland, Verona, and West Orange.

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Let us know if you'd like a FREE copy of the Family Wellness Program brochure (left) or our informative flyer, "How Can I Recognize Signs of a Substance Abuse Problem in Someone I Care About?" by emailing family@tpnj.org.





STEPHEN DELLA VALLE HONORED

The President of Turning Point's Board of Trustees, Stephen Della Valle, was honored on November 29th when The Giblin Association awarded him its prestigious Community Service Health Award for 2009. Congressman Bill Pascrell added a Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition for Steve before the evening ended.

Husband's Gratitude

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solution to our problems but this disease has overpowered her to the point where she doesn't even realize the consequences of her own actions. To bring my family back together to a stable and healthy state, we didn't need just a program—we needed a miracle. That's where Turning Point came in.

From the way the program is structured to its devoted, caring staff members, I see light at the end of the tunnel in relation to my wife's recovery. She now understands that not just herself but all who suffer from this condition are powerless. Turning Point has given her an education on where and when life threatening urges come from and how to deal with them, one by one, when they arrive. For the first time since I met my wife, I feel she now has the structured tools and personal ambition to successfully cope with an incurable disease.

Any client or concerned family member who is asking for more than this from a substance abuse treatment program is asking for an impossibility. Though there is no

known cure, Turning Point has created hope. Though hope is not a guarantee, it seems and feels very positive.

Beauty is within the eyes of the beholder and what Turning Point did for my family is beautiful. We couldn't have gotten a bigger or better start in the recovery process than we received from your facility.

Every client's situation and family tragedy is different. Unfortunately, ours is extreme. Without the professionalism and the caring and loving treatment my wife received, my family would have remained destroyed. I wish there were words to express our thanks and gratitude. There isn't, we're just lucky. As are all who enter Turning Point for a promising start from an unmanageable life. For the rest of our lives, we will never forget this favor. We will also share it with all who need it. God bless all who helped us.

Every day, your generous support helps make miracles like this one happen at Turning Point. We thank you for your kind and loyal generosity.

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, with our heartfelt thanks, inside the self-addressed envelope provided with this newsletter.

Turning Point's New Home

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Point's biggest supporters enough. "The Board of Trustees just would not give up the search," he said, "and most importantly, our donors stayed so loyal and generous to us. I've been looking forward to this moment for four years—the chance to say 'Thank You' to our supporters. Thanks to them, we can continue to give effective and compassionate care to our clients for many years to come."

Turning Point's move to the Barnert Medical Arts Complex signals an exciting new chapter in the agency's history. The space is being custom renovated to meet clients' specific needs, using the latest technology. Other medical services in the Complex include imaging and urgent care centers, a Breast Center,

eye care, a sleep clinic, pharmacy, physician practices and more. "Such a rich professional environment will uplift our staff and enhance our opportunities for client care in ways we have never before imagined," said Dr. Guantez.

While Turning Point has received substantial financial support to make this dream a reality, ongoing renovations and program expansion costs mean that more funding will be needed. We'll soon let you know details about how you can help. In the meantime, you can donate conveniently to Turning Point using your credit card at www.tpnj.org, or mail your check to Turning Point at Barnert Medical Arts Complex, 680 Broadway, Paterson, NJ 07514.

SAVE THE DATE FOR THIS YEAR'S TURNING POINT GALA

**Thursday, October 7, 2010
Crystal Plaza
Livingston**

Look for details in the spring

Do you ever wonder what sets Turning Point apart? **Satisfied Employees Help Clients Find Recovery**

If you believe that satisfied employees are likely to do a stellar job of helping clients find recovery, you'll like what you're about to read. A recent survey of Turning Point employees revealed that 100 percent of them either agreed or strongly agreed with the following statements:

"I like working at Turning Point."

"I am proud to tell others that I work at Turning Point."

"I am dedicated to Turning Point's success."

Employees are pleased with several positive changes at Turning Point: the impending move to Barnert Medical Arts Complex, expansion of services (such as the outpatient program) and adaptations to meet clients' needs.

Your support, combined with the above-and-beyond efforts of Turning Point's staff, are essential to the success so many of our clients experience as they find and maintain their recovery from addiction.



Turning Point staff consult on a team-building exercise during recent clinical staff retreat. (L to R): Louise Alexander, Glenn Kipp and Abigail Prommel.

Program for Families

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What makes the Family Wellness Program unique? Unlike most other addiction treatment programs, the family member who is battling addiction does not need to participate in counseling in order for their family to get the help they need to cope with the effects of addiction in their lives. The Family Wellness Program can help families understand this disease and how to deal with a member who is actively using or abusing a substance whether or not that person has made the choice for sobriety.

"The disease of addiction is a public health problem, just like other chronic diseases, and it's much worse than most people think," said Dr. Manuel Guantez, Turning Point's Executive Director. "Three out of four people know someone who has a problem with alcohol or drugs. But there is so much secrecy and shame involved that families avoid getting help until it's too late. The effects on a family are devastating."

"Without question, addiction will move from generation to generation unless something breaks the cycle.... We feel incredibly fortunate that Mountainside Health Foundation understands the need in our community and was willing to help us do something about it."

—Dr. Guantez

To be most effective, addiction treatment must engage and educate the entire family and support system, whether or not the addicted person seeks treatment. "Without question, addiction will move from generation to generation unless something breaks the cycle," Dr. Guantez stated. "That's why we've been wanting to do a program like this for years, but it's very difficult to find funding. We feel incredibly fortunate that Mountainside

Health Foundation understands the need in our community and was willing to help us do something about it."

Last fall, Mountainside Health Foundation announced that it would provide start-up funding for Turning Point's Family Wellness Program. "We are pleased to partner with Turning Point to provide seed funding for this innovative project designed to address such a significant, previously unmet need," said Pam Scott, Mountainside Health Foundation's Chief Foundation Officer. "We believe that many local families will find support in this program that they have never been able to get before."

For more information about Turning Point's Family Wellness Program, call 973-239-9400 ext. 195 or email us at family@tpnj.org.

If you'd like to make a donation to ensure that this much-needed program will be able to continue, visit www.tpnj.org and look for the "DONATE NOW" button.

“Magic & Laughter” Gala

Raises Nearly \$85,000 to Benefit Turning Point Programs

Nearly 200 of Turning Point’s friends and supporters enjoyed “An Evening of Magic & Laughter” on October 15, 2009 at our 8th annual Benefit Gala. The event raised nearly \$85,000 to support Turning Point’s treatment programs for those suffering from the disease of alcohol and drug addiction.

Held at the elegant Crystal Plaza in Livingston, the featured entertainer was John Pizzi. Mr. Pizzi had the guests in stitches with his singular blend of stand-up comedy, magic, ventriloquism and illusion. The evening also included a cocktail dinner reception, music, dancing, and prize raffles. The featured raffle prize was a 52” Toshiba LCD Television donated by Electronics Expo of Wayne.

“Every year, our Gala is a great opportunity to raise funds and touch base with our wonderful supporters,” said Dr. Manuel Guantez, Executive Director, “and this year, it was an especially fun time from start to finish.”

2009 MUSIC & LAUGHTER GALA SPONSORS

We thank you so much for your support.

SPECIAL THANKS TO....

Electronics Expo for donating the 52” Toshiba LCD Television for our Raffle and \$20 gift cards for every guest.

Steven Smith of S.R. Smith Sports Photography for photographing the Gala at no cost.

Budget Print Center of Bloomfield and an anonymous partner for donating the cost of printing raffle tickets.

Stephen Della Valle of Jason Craig Entertainment for donating the Deejay/MC, music and lighting.

Susan and George Turner for underwriting the cost of entertainment for the evening.

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Relive the Fun: Some Highlights from the “Magic & Laughter” Gala



Steve Della Valle, President of Turning Point’s Board of Trustees, presents fellow Trustee John DeStefano with a commemorative coin for John’s 25th Sobriety Anniversary.



John DeStefano’s moving testimonial as a Trustee and an alum of Turning Point was both funny and heartbreaking—a highlight of the evening.



The crowd enjoyed the entertainment provided by John Pizzi, a blend of stand-up comedy, ventriloquism, and magic.



The Crystal Plaza lived up to its reputation for delectable dining.



Kristine O’Connor, Alex and Blake O’Neill, and Lena Corbo connect before dinner.



Dr. Manuel Guantez, Turning Point’s Executive Director, welcomes John Cali to the Gala.



Mike and Barbara Gregory ponder the Tricky Tray raffle prizes.



Yogi and Carmen Berra share a funny moment with another guest and John Pizzi, the evening’s featured performer.



John Pizzi performs strolling magic for Carmen Berra and George Turner before taking the stage for his headline act.



John Cali, Nancy Clayman and Val Azzoli were among the Gala guests.

TURNING POINT

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How to give your United Way Donation to Turning Point

If you work for a company that sponsors United Way fundraising drives each year, you may have noticed that Turning Point is not currently included on the list of nonprofit agencies that you can select to support.

We're working on that. In the meantime, did you know that you can still designate Turning Point to receive your annual United Way contribution? This is called a "Donor Directed Contribution." *The United Way will send all or part of your donation to any specific 501(c)(3) agency you choose.*

Simply write our name and address in the space provided on your company's contribution card:

Turning Point
Box 111
Verona, NJ 07044
Phone: 973-239-9400.

We thank you so much for your generosity.

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