



# Turning Pages

Volume 1, Issue 2

Newsletter of

April 2008

**The Turning Point Rape Crisis Center**

## ***Welcome to Turning Pages!***

Many of you frequently ask about the Center and our ongoing efforts in the community to prevent and raise awareness of sexual violence, as well as our counseling and crisis work with survivors.

***Turning Pages*** is one way for us to reach out to you, our many supporters and advocates, with news and updates about The Turning Point. We hope you find it valuable and informative. Thank you for reading ***Turning Pages!***

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Visit our website at [www.theturningpoint.org](http://www.theturningpoint.org)

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## **April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month**

*Please join us for these April events:*

### **Candlelight Vigil**

**Thursday, April 24, 6:30 p.m.**

**at the Spring Creek Campus of  
Collin County Community College**

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### **BE SAFE! Annual Softball Tournament**

**Saturday, April 26, 12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

**Heritage Yards, 4525 Hedcoxe Road,  
Plano, 75093**

*For details, continue reading ***Turning Pages****

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### **Volunteer Appreciation**

**The Turning Point will honor our  
2007 Volunteers  
on Wednesday, April 30.**

**Contact Sarah at 972-985-0951 for more information.**

## **Letter from the President**

*by Leisha Phipps, Board President*

Since 1998, The Turning Point has been an important part of my life. My initial involvement, first as a therapist and then as Clinical Director, provided me with inspiration that no other experience has. The resiliency, hope and sheer strength of the survivors I had the privilege to work with left me motivated and committed to this agency on a level that I never would have anticipated.

As a board member for five years, I've come to see that although our needs are many, anyone can help. Supporters often think that volunteers are only needed to answer crisis calls, but The Turning Point needs your help in many areas, for example:

- 1) **Funding** - The Turning Point has always been strongly supported by federal and state grants, but such funding is reduced every year. Consequently, our primary source of funding is no longer adequate if we are to maintain the comprehensive counseling, advocacy, and education services we provide to area residents at *no cost*. Community financial support is essential to sustain these services.
- 2) **Technology** - In order to improve our services to the community, our technology infrastructure must be updated. Up-to-date hardware, software and volunteer I.T. help would be a huge asset to The Turning Point.
- 3) **Events** - Planning, mailings, soliciting corporate and community sponsors, and attending events and fundraisers are just a few of the ways that our Fundraising Committee could use your help. We are grateful for any amount of time that you feel comfortable volunteering, and we welcome your ideas and expertise.
- 4) **Awareness** - Anyone and everyone can help keep our community aware of the free services that The Turning Point provides, and of our ongoing need for the support and involvement of our community.

We all want to live in a safe community, and with your help we can reach that goal. No amount of help is too little. Please contact us soon so that we can continue this work - together.

**Leisha**

## Community Collaboration

*Claudia Alexander - Executive Director*

For 25 years, The Turning Point has provided unique and specialized services, such as crisis intervention and counseling, directly to victims of sexual violence. For other services, we often work in collaboration with partners in our community.

A prime example is the Collin County Sexual Assault Response Team (SART). The SART is a multi-disciplinary team that consists of law enforcement and criminal justice agencies, hospitals, the SANE Team, The Turning Point and Collin County Children's Advocacy Center. The SART meets regularly to develop, review and refine our community response to sexual assaults.

A key component of SART is the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Team. These specially trained nurses perform the medical forensic exams that law enforcement uses in investigating crimes. SANE members also testify in sexual assault cases, providing critical evidence to help prosecute sexual offenders.

Because we understand the many needs of sexual assault survivors, The Turning Point took a lead role in establishing the Collin County SART and the SANE Team in 2002. We continue to serve as the hub of SART and SANE activity and management in Collin County.

As our county grows, so does the need for a well-coordinated, professional response to sexual assaults. This spring, the SART is reviewing how to adapt to best meet evolving local needs. We look forward to sharing more details about this vital work in the coming months, and to remaining at the forefront of improving services for sexual assault victims in our community.

Help us cut mailing costs – sign up for electronic delivery of this quarterly newsletter! Just send an email message with "Add this address" in the subject line to: [info@theturningpoint.org](mailto:info@theturningpoint.org) We do not share our mailing lists and we promise to send only occasional notices of importance to our wonderful friends and supporters!

## Play Ball!



Be a part of The Turning Point's  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Annual BE SAFE! Softball Tournament**

**Saturday, April 26, Noon – 5:00p.m.**  
at Heritage Yards fields, 4525 Hedgcoxe Road, Plano, Texas

\$300 includes the team entry fee and event shirt for teams of 9-11 players. Individual players are also welcome (\$33).

Not a ball player? Be a sponsor!  
Levels from \$100-\$1500 are available for community recognition.

Plan to stay for barbecue, hosted by Dickey's Barbeque, immediately following the tournament at the Pavilion at Heritage Yards!

Please call Renee LeClair at 214.335.0488 or  
[reneeclair@verizon.net](mailto:reneeclair@verizon.net) with questions or to register.

Join in this fun and family-friendly event and help support  
**The Turning Point!**

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### *2008 Board of Directors and New Officers*

*Leisha Phipps – President*

*Renee LeClair*

*Misha Dawson – Vice President*

*Shannon Bryant*

*Robert Sanders – Treasurer*

*Diane McGrath*

*Amber Bass – Secretary*

*Claudia Alexander, Exec. Dir.*

*Scott Drescher – Past President*

*Advisory Council: Sharon Easley, Barbara Johnson, Gary Nolte*

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