

# Turning Points Network

Preventing Violence  
Promoting Respect  
Strengthening Lives

Annual Report, Fiscal Year 2013

## Agency Overview

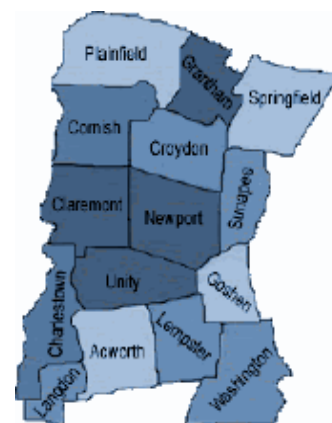
Turning Points Network is the only crisis center in Sullivan County serving victims and survivors of domestic violence, sexual abuse and stalking. We have been serving Sullivan County for 37 years. TPN enhances the safety and well-being of families, women, men, teens and children through advocacy and 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 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.

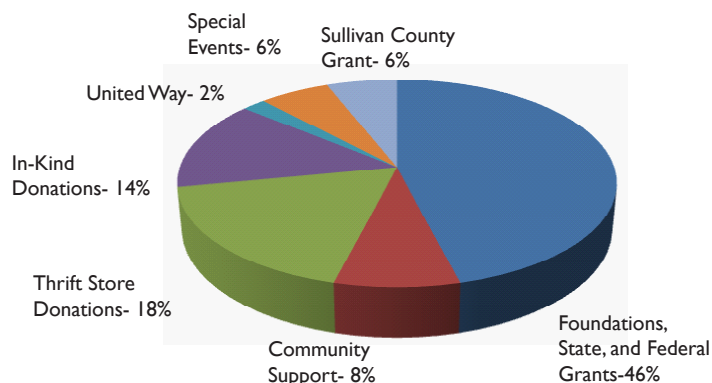
Programs are funded by federal, state, local and private grants, revenue from CHANGES Thrift Store, fundraising events and donations from individuals and friends like you.



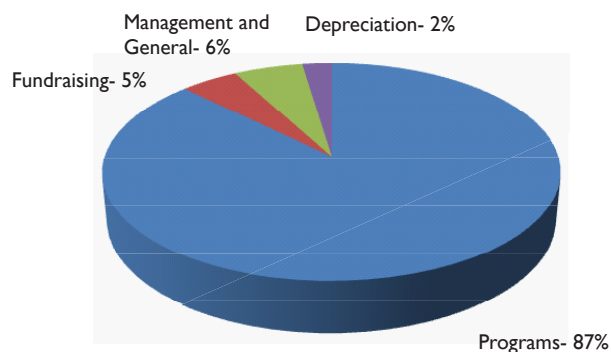
*TPN serves a higher percentage of its population than the average in NH. We attribute this to our strong outreach efforts, easy access to services, and the strong relationships we have with community partners in Sullivan County.*

**Click here to learn from survivors how they were helped at TPN.**

### REVENUES



### EXPENSES



## Direct Services

### *Who we are, Services and Accessibility*

Turning Points Network has services to help any teen or adult who is experiencing or has experienced any form of domestic violence, sexual abuse or stalking. And, we are available to help 24 hours a day. Our core services include: exploring options, safety planning, talking through a situation, advocacy in obtaining restraining orders, advocacy in applying for other community services, shelter, advocacy in reaching financial security, information about issues of violence, and taking the time a survivor needs to identify how and in what ways we can help. Survivors can work with TPN on an individual basis and/or through support groups. Individuals can work with TPN in person or by phone and may remain anonymous if they choose. There is no cost for any service. Everything a victim/survivor shares about abuse or violence is kept confidential. An exception is that we must report child abuse.

Each victim/survivor decides what services they may want from TPN and for how long. We know that everyone's situation is different and that individuals have different resources and support systems. There is no pressure and TPN staff and volunteers make no judgment about any individual's circumstances. There are no applications to fill out.

TPN has highly trained staff and volunteers who are committed to providing comprehensive services and who are committed to assuring victims/survivors get the help they need. At any time of day or day of the week, survivors should be able to talk with an advocate within ten minutes of contacting TPN. Staff and volunteers receive ongoing training to assure Turning Points Network is a culturally competent organization and that we can provide critical and individualized services to survivors of any culture, gender identity, faith, race, gender, ability or disability, illness, and who speak any language.

### *Collaborations to Improve Services*

Sullivan County Department of Corrections: TPN is providing educational and support groups to incarcerated individuals. The Department of Corrections identified that nearly 100% of their female incarcerated population and about 85% of their male incarcerated population are victims of abuse. Groups focus on issues of abuse, healing, community resources, and making connections for when released.

Child Protection: The TPN Domestic Violence Specialist is working with the local child protection agency and the courts to establish better interventions with families experiencing both domestic violence and child abuse. Last year, the Domestic Violence Specialist received 180 referrals from Child Protective Services to assist them in providing services to the adult victim of domestic violence in these 180 families while they help the child victims.

Trauma Informed Coalition: Staff and volunteers are working with the Trauma Specialist from the NH Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence to continue to enhance our understanding of the trauma of experiencing violence and the myriad of trauma responses survivors have. Through this collaborative, TPN is gaining skills to train staff from other local organizations to increase their understanding of trauma and trauma responses.

Communities United Regional Network: Through this collaborative, and in working with the Trauma Specialist at the NH Coalition, TPN is able to assist survivors of violence who also struggle with a co-occurring mental illness or drug use/misuse.

## Annual Report, Fiscal Year 2013

The Literacy Partnership: TPN staff is working with local colleges, schools, community leaders and providers to assess and address issues regarding literacy and opportunities to enhance individual literacy.

Child Advocacy Center: When law enforcement and child protective services utilize the Child Advocacy Center to interview children they suspect have been sexually abused, TPN is there to work with the protective parents of the children. Parents are secondary victims to their children's abuse and TPN is able to provide crisis intervention, support and advocacy services. Services can continue well after any criminal justice actions.

### Highlights

#### New Programs for Families Residing in the Shelter

- Last year, TPN's AmeriCorps Member developed weekly family night activities, special outings and educational groups for families staying in the shelter.
- The AmeriCorps Member also provided programming on witnessing domestic violence to children residing in the shelter and developed an 8-week support group for children to coincide with a support group for their moms.

#### Program to Enhance Economic Self-Sufficiency

- TPN created a program to assist survivors in reaching their economic self-sufficiency. TPN assisted survivors in finding employment and going back to school as well as in finding support services including child care, transportation, and job readiness.
- TPN was awarded a federal Department of Justice grant to assist survivors in securing permanent housing. This is a two year grant and will provide partial rental assistance for up to 12 months.

## Community Education

### Community-Based Work

TPN provides training and workshops to first responders, civic organizations, faith communities, businesses, parent groups and other audiences. Preventing violence is the work of a community, and TPN helps to raise awareness, increase knowledge and build skills that will engage different groups in building safer, healthier homes and communities.

### School-Based Work

Turning Points Network's Violence Prevention Education Program decreases the number of victims and perpetrators of dating violence, sexual abuse, sexual harassment and other crimes. Our Educators work with school administrators, teachers, staff and students on issues of bullying, sexual harassment, dating violence, personal safety, healthy relationships, and gender stereotyping.

## CRISIS AND SUPPORT SERVICES

TPN provided services to

**809**

survivors of abuse and families in transition.

*"Turning Points' group is my one time in my week where I feel I'm not alone and where people understand me."*

-survivor and support group member

## Annual Report, Fiscal Year 2013

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 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 groups about the issues of bullying, 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.

Programs for schools are designed to impact both individual behavior and the school climate.

*School Programs Offered during the 2012-2013 school year:*

Pre-Kindergarten: Hands Are Not For Hitting 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 K-1: Curricula, resource materials and activities are available to teachers, administrators, guidance personnel and parents to assist them in talking with children about respectful and disrespectful behavior.

Grades 2-5: 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.

Grade 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.

## EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

### School-Based Education

Total Number of Students  
**2,045**



The Student Leadership Team at Towle Elementary School in Newport designed "Tiger Toolbox" posters to highlight different "tools" bystanders could use to stand up to disrespect and bullying.

### Number of Programs by Topic

116	Connect With Respect
49	Sexual Harassment/ Bullying
36	Healthy Dating Relationships
27	Personal Safety
11	Hands Are Not For Hitting
23	Special Programs

## Annual Report, Fiscal Year 2013

Grades 2-6: The Personal Body Safety Program helps students to define personal safety and to identify situations and individuals that may be unsafe. Guided discussions help students explore their own instincts, boundaries and beliefs regarding safety. The program also reviews risk reduction strategies, healthy decision-making and the importance of getting help from trusted adults.

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.

Special Programs: In addition to the programs listed above, special programming on domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and related topics are available upon request.

### *Highlights*

- Provided guest presentations about healthy relationships as part of SHINE, a sexual health education group facilitated by Good Beginnings.
- Co-facilitated a peer leadership group with students at Towle School focusing on bystander responsibility and bullying prevention.
- Provided specialized programming to elementary school students following a series of sexual harassment reports.
- Conducted focus groups with 6 groups of middle and high school students about the role of technology in dating relationships.
- Provided consultation to school administrators regarding specific cases of bullying and sexual harassment.
- Met with administrators and guidance counselors new to Sullivan County to introduce TPN programming and philosophy.
- Provided training about bullying to Newport Montessori School staff.
- Provided information and training to various parent and civic groups around issues of violence prevention.
- Attended various health fairs, back to school nights and community events to provide information about violence prevention and TPN.