



November Newsletter

Recovery In Action

BY REBEKAH GROSS

My name is Rebekah Gross, I'm a mom, wife, daughter, friend, survivor, warrior, and child of the King. I was raised by two of the best parents and had a normal life. While in high school, my dad got a diagnosis of terminal brain cancer and my whole world was suddenly ripped away from me. Why this happened is an answer I may never know. Regardless, that last summer was truly the best summer as I spent every day with my dad. He lived 1 year and 3 months after his diagnosis and passed away 9 days after I turned 16. Yes, of course, I went through therapy and my mom tried her best. But I was still so lost and the grief was so much to bear. It was within a year my addiction journey unfolded. I started searching for a dad figure in all the wrong places, I started smoking marijuana and drinking because it numbed the pain. It seemed I could have a clearer head while being under the influence and that led me to wonder what else could help numb my pain. I had friends that introduced me to more narcotic pain pills, and those seemed to work much better. I was so messed up that even when I was sober, my mom would accuse me of using. A few years passed and I ended up dropping out of college after only a year and a half. I had a dream, and that dream was taken from me because my addiction worsened, and I couldn't maintain my grades. I started working as a server, where it seemed everyone I worked with was using. I later found myself in a bad relationship where for 5 years I was torn down, called names, used, abused, and everything in between. In the fragile state I was in, I didn't know how to leave. I quickly ended up across the US in California with him. My mom knew I was in a bad place, but not exactly how bad. The situation I found myself in was worse than the drugs I was using, he had so much control over me. After a horrible fight, that I didn't know if I would make it out alive, I came back home. But it didn't end there, I went back to him, time and time again, and ended up pregnant at the age of 21. The abuse continued each time I would see him, and I lived in fear. I ended up giving custody of my son to my mom because of my addiction. A few years later, I met the love of my life, but he also struggled with addiction. Our addiction continued throughout our marriage. My addiction led to ecstasy, meth, and iv-drug using. After an arrest I was led to re-entry court, and I have been sober since (June of this year marked 8 years.) The script had finally changed for me-I got my son back and my husband became sober. I started working at Turning Point this summer and I truly have an amazing job; I get to mentor kids in the REACH program. Today, I get to be someone I never had, a friend, coach, mentor, and supporter. My story isn't over, and while I did not plan for my journey to go the way it did, I wouldn't change it-it made me who I am today and for that I'm thankful.



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For Announcements, Events, Employment Opportunities, and Updates
Visit
WWW.TURNINGPOINTSOC.ORG



Program of The Month

Here at Turning Point, we have a lot of great programs to offer in the community, one of those being the REACH program. Our REACH program works with youth in the community ages 12-17. REACH offers a safe place for kids to come be a part of something more, where they can be a support to each other, and where they can learn & grow. We have peer coaches who work alongside the youth to help them be accountable at school, at home and to help support them through the many challenges life throws their way. We also help get the youth ready for adulthood by teaching valuable life skills. Our peer coaches are working in local schools, the Kinsey Youth Center, and serving meals at our own Discovery Cafe. If you want to learn more about our REACH program or would like to help volunteer, please visit our website for more info.

CEO Report

November is commonly a time of thanks and connecting. For many of us, it means connecting with family and friends in the warmth of our homes. Yet for many, it's a time where the weather gets colder and the daylight gets shorter making life more challenging. Housing continues to be a major challenge for our community and homelessness often means vulnerability, isolation, and despair. Not surprisingly, homelessness and addiction often occur simultaneously. Unfortunately, many people struggling with both issues are unable to get the help they need.

I am truly grateful that this November we have been able to successfully launch the Recovery Stabilization Center at our main facility (1234 N. Courtland Ave, Kokomo). The Recovery Stabilization Center is meant to give our community better access to care. The launch now gives us 24/7/365 access to in-person detox/withdrawal management support, crisis stabilization support/navigation, and access to medication assisted treatment where people don't have to wait weeks for an appointment - they can just walk in, no appointment necessary. This is important as fatal overdoses are sadly on the rise in our local communities - largely due to abused drugs being laced with fentanyl. This is why getting into recovery now is so important and is a life critical issue.

I feel extremely grateful for our Turning Point team and for the work they do to give hope and assist those in need in a caring, respectful way. I am regularly so impressed by the things they come up with to support each other and our recovery community as we strive to meet people where they are at and to ensure a no-wrong-door approach to care. Perhaps most importantly, I am grateful that recovery is possible and life can be good. So in this spirit, I wish you a very Happy Thanksgiving and hope you keep us in mind whenever you come across someone in need. We're here for you.

Matt



Upcoming

Discovery Café Ribbon Cutting

Our Discovery Café is having a ribbon cutting December 19th from 4-6pm. Come see the updated facility and celebrate with us the grand opening. The ribbon cutting will be held at 219 W. Walnut with tours to follow at the REACH building located at 216 W. Walnut.

IMPACT Award

Turning Point was honored to receive the community IMPACT award for 2022 by the Chamber of Commerce and greater Kokomo area. The IMPACT award is awarded annually to a local non-profit organization that has made the biggest impact in the community in the past year. We love being a part of and being able to serve this great community.

Amazon Smile

Turning Point is now set up on Amazon Smile which donates a portion of qualified purchases to a nonprofit organization of your choice. Visit the link below and search for Turning Point SOC and sign up today!

Visit:

<https://smile.amazon.com/charity>

Education Topic

November is National Homeless Youth Awareness month.

November has been a time to acknowledge those children and families experiencing homelessness. As many as 2.5 million youth per year experience homelessness. To learn more visit the link below.

<https://www.nctsn.org/resources/public-awareness/national-homeless-youth-awareness-month>