

OUR TURNING POINT

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TURNING POINT
AN AFRICAN AMERICAN ORGANIZATION

SUMMER FUN!

Turning Point will participate in several Summer Festivals this year. Come enjoy the Festival, and look for the Turning Point table!

JUNE

JUNETEENTH Festival

6/18/22 @ Bethune Park 12-6 p.m.

PRIDE Festival

6/25 & 26/22 @ Loring Park, 12- 6 p.m.

JULY

Rondo Days Festival 7/22

AUGUST

Festival for Fathers

8/13/22 @North Commons Park, 5-9 p.m.

V-Fest, 8/13/22 @ UROC (1201 Plymouth Ave N), 1-5 p.m.

Urban League Family Day

8/27/22, @ Plymouth/Penn Aves, 12-7 p.m.

SEPTEMBER

Open Streets Broadway Ave N

9/10/22, 11 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Meeting the needs of our community,
beginning with chemical health.

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THE IMPORTANCE OF LIFELONG LEARNING

BY ANGELA REED
Chief Operating Officer

Lifelong learning is a valuable asset. The process of gaining knowledge and learning new skills throughout your life leads to personal development, fulfillment, motivation and quality of life.

As evidenced by the pandemic, the social justice movement and the current inequities/disparities we experience, it is clear that we are continually evolving. New skill sets are a valuable asset in our work and can do wonders in our personal lives.

Lifelong learning can also help you realize your passions and boost your creativity, leading to various ways to live a better life.

I chose this subject today to take an opportunity to share one of the sources of my lifelong learning, the National Black Alcoholism and Addiction Council (NBAC). NBAC has always been a source of educational respite. The Executive Director of NBAC is Dr. Peter Hayden. He and I have been working lately to support the efforts of the Massachusetts chapter of NBAC.

Every time I am able to interact with the legacy providers in this group, I leave informed, supported and motivated to stay in this game for the long haul. On June 8-11 there will be a ground-breaking conference that will change your life, dull compassion fatigue and leave you excited about the road ahead as we improve the lives of our communities.

I would like to invite you to attend and share your experiences. This is a valuable resource that will serve as the boost needed to collectively impact the people we serve. Please join in for the Black Alcoholism/Addictions Institute (BAI). We will also host a BAI in Minnesota soon. Stay tuned.

VACCINES

Are **SAFE.**
Are **NECESSARY.**
SAVE LIVES.

GREETINGS FROM OUR PRESIDENT



BY DR. PETER HAYDEN
President & CEO

A place to change your mind

I want to share with you a couple of things currently going on in the Turning Point world.

As many of you know, Turning Point is a chemical health, mental health, housing service center. We have been providing these types of services for our community for 46 years now. I am excited because we have taken a new step into environmental health.

We have partnered with Apadana Solar Technologies in providing solar and LED lighting upgrades to Turning Point. Solar panels are being installed on the main building at 1500 Golden Valley Road and the duplex at 1832 Irving Ave N.

Turning Point not only has provided services for men and women to change their lives, we are also looking at choices that benefit the larger community. By installing the solar panels and changing out the lighting in all our properties, Turning Point will reduce our environmental impact. By saving on our energy costs, Turning Point will have more resources to spend directly on our clients.



May 25 marks the one-year anniversary of George Floyd's death. His death has changed the world. George was a member of the Turning Point family as he came through our treatment program and lived at Ms. Bea's House.

His Name is George Floyd, a book recently published by *Washington Post* reporters Robert Samuels and Toluse Olorunnipa, includes a description of the culturally specific philosophy and services that Turning Point offers. This approach to treatment helped George find recovery. Seeing, and finding, support from people who looked and talked like him made a difference in the choices he made for his own life.

Many organizations around the country are now seeking Turning Point's assistance to understand the importance of culture in helping people change their lives. More people are becoming aware of what we offer here. We are excited for this opportunity to create national, even global, change.

If you are interested in the services Turning Point offers, you can contact us at 612-520-4004 or www.ourturningpoint.org.



BOYS OF HOPE

BY WOODROW JEFFERSON

Community Services Outreach Manager

Woodrow Jefferson is a staunch advocate for clients at Turning Point. He is also a man who wears many hats. He is a constant support to the clients and to the community. His willingness to step up and show up has been recognized by the community. Below is a word from Woodrow about his experience with one of his current projects:

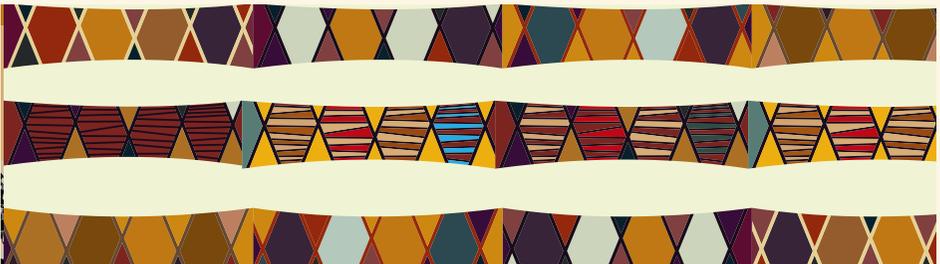
Some time ago, a local high school asked if I would be willing to work with young men who are struggling in high school. I said yes, and committed to working with these young men for the school year, one hour a week.

This year hasn't been easy! I've been trying to communicate with these young men who sometimes seem to speak a different language. They've had to deal with COVID and the stopping and starting of virtual instruction, the murder of a classmate and a teachers' strike!!

The goal of our group is to connect with these young men and to show them that someone out here does care. I text or call these young men once a week to see if there's anything I can do to help. As you can imagine most come from broken homes, single-parent situations, etc. We all know the narrative, because such things are all too common.

We're providing help with finding programs to assist with homework studies. We also help connect with community resources, job training programs and sometimes housing. We promised to take them to Big Golf if they end the school year with final grade of C or better!

I've enjoyed my time with these young men. As the school year is slowly coming to the end, I'm looking forward to working with these young men again next year. I hope to get a better understanding of what these young men are dealing with, living with targets on their backs.





MAN MAKES A CHANGE AND BUILDS SUCCESS

BY GREG JONES
Chief Programs Officer

Willis Lee Hopkins, better known as “Gucci man,” is from Abilene, Texas. He made his way to Turning Point about two years ago. He completed the inpatient treatment program and then continued his journey to Ms. Bea’s House, our board and lodge facility.

Willis was very successful in the time that he spent in both programs. He’s led a sober life since then, and is an excellent example of a person who chose the right time and place to change their mind. Since completing his journey with Turning Point, he has steadily worked in construction with numerous companies who have all sung his praises.

Despite working full time, Willis always finds time to give back to Turning Point in various ways. He’s helped by doing things as small as picking up the garbage on the grounds and helping in the kitchen to as big as giving advice and guidance to those currently going through their struggle with substance use. He’s always been willing to help and that makes him an amazing individual.

A CLIENT SHARES HIS OWN STORY

I’m Paul Crockett and I went to Turning Point in September of 2021.

I came from Houston, Texas. I was smoking crack every day. Now I have nine months clean. Turning Point saved my life.

I have job at Minneapolis Public Schools (Roosevelt High School). I’m saving my money, bought two cars. I send my daughter and grandkids money. I have a good relationship with my sister.

People tell me that I look happy and have a glow of joy. I have not had a drink or any mind-altering substances in nine months, and that is a big accomplishment for me!

I am proud of myself. I thank Turning Point for everything. Currently I am in Micah House and I am about to get my own housing. God is good all the time. Amen.

TURNING POINT WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBERS



ZAK CHESSON

Zak comes to Turning Point through a connection with one of our long-standing Board members, Nancy Zalusky Berg. In his role with the Guardian ad Litem Program, he worked with individuals who received services from Turning Point.

Now a Mediator/Evaluator with Hennepin County Family Court Services, Zak is a good fit with Turning Point's mission and goals due to years of experience working with individuals struggling with chemical health issues and the impact that their challenges have on their families, especially the children.

With experience on the Board of Minnesota Chapter of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts, Zak brings a good understanding of procedures and expectations for large organizations. He also offers consultation services regarding the intersection of race/culture and the courts. He lives in Robbinsdale and has an 18-year old son who plays baseball. He has lived in North Minneapolis and is familiar with the community.

"I hope that my experience and expertise allows for new and creative opportunities for Turning Point," Zak said. "I also hope to accumulate new knowledge, insights, and relationships."



HENRY CROSBY

Henry Crosby has been interested in the work of Turning Point for many years. He and Dr. Hayden are both members of the Monitors Club and have interacted frequently as community leaders.

Since coming to Minnesota from Chicago in 1986, Henry has worked in both corporate and nonprofit settings, with experience in development and fundraising. He has served at the United Negro College Fund, the YMCA of Greater Minneapolis, the Harold Mezile North Community YMCA and the YMCA Heritage Park Senior Services Center. Now retired, he shares with his wife (also retired) two adult children and two grandsons.

Henry shared, "I have experiences that have been established in markets that didn't address the specific needs of the communities I represent or are most passionate about. Turning Point was always a place where I respected the leadership and mission. Most importantly, I feel my cultural perspectives relate to the clients and mission because I, too, grew up in the urban core of Chicago and the clients are my people whom I understand and respect."

REGGIE RASMUSSEN

Another colleague of Board Member Nancy Berg, Reggie understands the challenges of chemical dependency. He believes his life experiences will allow him to offer not only a personal perspective, but a deep conviction of believing in others.

As a Senior Vice President in Wealth Management at Merrill Lynch, Reggie brings a great deal of experience in financial matters. As the son of a single mother, he understands financial challenges. This has let him to build a career serving the specialized challenges of divorced women.

A lifelong resident of St. Paul, Reggie currently lives in Maplewood with his wife and daughter. To show solidarity with his daughter's health issues as she battles cancer, he began a rigorous fitness regimen which has led to Ironman and triathlon competitions.

By serving on the Turning Point Board, Reggie hopes to make as much impact as he can. "I was inspired by the work and accomplishments and the impact and difference Turning Point has made in so many lives. I am honored to be a part of the organization."



LEROY WEST

Leroy West, current president of Summit Academy OIC, comes to Turning Point's Board through another Board member - Board Chair Alex Tittle. They worked together some years ago, and Leroy was inspired by the mission and goals of the organization that Alex shared with him.

"I have a passion for helping those who want to be successful in life. Many have taken different paths along the way and some may have been more challenging than others." he said.

Leroy joined Summit Academy in 2003 as Chief administrative Officer and was promoted to President in January of this year. Previously he served for 10 years in leadership positions at East YMCA in St. Paul, growing their membership from 300 to 3000.

Looking forward to contributing to the success of the organization, Zak brings 28 years of experience in nonprofit management along with ties to the community assets that can help Turning Point plan for the future.

"I look to Turning Point to help change the lives of those they touch. It's not a job any more but a mission."



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