



What do State budget cuts really mean for us?

**By Cheryl Cathcart
Executive Director**

The State budget cuts, of which domestic violence services will receive a 50% loss in funding, will go into effect January of 2012. I hate to say it, but we face the reality of closing the portion of the shelter that sleeps 54+ women and children. I hope to keep as many staff as possible so we can continue to provide the very basic of services for clients, such as safety planning and legal advocacy, but truthfully, time will tell if that is possible.

Staffing here at the agency has already been reduced to the bare minimum due to budget cuts earlier in the year. This year alone, we eliminated five vital positions that serve clients. When you take into account the seven positions that have never been filled, since we opened the shelter doors three years ago, the impact to client support services is significant.

Today, as I write this update we have seven full time staff and three part-time that share night, week-ends and holiday shifts. Everyone is working hard to meet the needs of

the clients in the shelter, those that walk in for services on a daily basis and those living and working in the community, but it's become increasingly difficult. We are accustomed to doing more with less; it's part of being a non-profit organization. I do have to tell you that staff members continue to step up to fill gaps even if it means volunteering their time in addition to their work schedules. It's impossible not to step up and work even harder when you see the many women and children in need here in our community. You need only count the number of people we serve to see that our services positively impact the community.

In the last three years we have housed more than 1,400 clients in the shelter; in addition, we have provided services to another 800+ that live in the community and rely on the services we provide: support groups, basic needs, household goods, legal advocacy, safety planning, housing assistance, holiday and back-to-school supplies for moms who have children—just to name a few, the majority of which are going away.

When you consider that it takes a minimum of \$2,500 per day, a very conservative estimate, to operate the shelter at full capacity, you can easily understand how a \$95,000 additional cut in funding would eliminate our ability to provide basic needs, food, utilities, laundry facilities and advocacy support services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Now more than ever we need your support. If you can contribute financially, please do, it's tax deductible. If you have time and can volunteer to support clients and their children, sign up to attend our volunteer training in January of 2012; we have lots of positions to fill and can use the help.

Below is a list of positions we need filled:

- 2 Receptionists
- 1 Janitor / Grounds person
- 6 Client Advocates
- 1 Grant Writer to seek funding
- 1 Child / Teen Advocate
- 1 Prevention Specialist

Already, 20 beds a day are not filled because we don't have the staff to meet their needs.

We need your support!

Turning Pointe given humanitarian award

The SAFE Club at North Mason High School has honored Turning Pointe with its Marissa Ann Goodell Shining Star Scholarship Humanitarian Award recognizing its work in North Mason. The award was created after the death of Marissa Goodell, daughter of Dan and Barb Goodell, while she was in high school.

The award was presented by two SAFE Club members, Ariana Richardson and Megan Hicks, to Turning Pointe Board President Patti White and Executive Director Cheryl Cathcart at the North Mason Turning Pointe office on Oct. 25. The inscription

Continued on Page 2



Presentation of the Humanitarian Award (l to r): Jean Anderson (TP Board), Patricia White (President, TP Board), Det. Bill Adam (TP Board), Cheryl Cathcart (TP executive director), Mack Johnson (NM teacher), Megan Hicks (NMH student), Ariana Richardson (NMS student), and Dan & Barb Goodell, parents of Marissa Goodell.

Adopt a DV family for the holidays!

The holidays are coming and Turning Pointe is kicking off its annual Adopt a Family Christmas program once again. The Adopt a Family program is a wonderful opportunity to help survivors of domestic violence and their children to have a pleasant holiday season in an otherwise traumatic time in their lives.

Sponsors are needed each year to adopt families working with Turning Pointe who need help during the holidays. As a sponsor you can de-

Continued on Page 2



Humanitarian Award, from P. 1

tion on the award reads: "In recognition of and with great gratitude for the selfless dedication and tireless efforts in the North Mason Community."

"We are honored to receive the Humanitarian Award and extremely grateful for the many partners that work with us to provide victim support," said Cathcart. "This acknowledgment confirms that our work is affecting youth in a very positive way and we are proud of them and of the community we serve. In this time of limited financial resources and cuts from grants to operate the shelter, this award provides a reminder how important these services are to our community."

The scholarship has two components, one to provide a scholarship to a chosen North Mason High School senior who has shown a desire and willingness to pursue a career that will help others. The second component is the Humanitarian Award which highlights the efforts of an organization that is providing humanitarian based efforts in the North Mason community. The award is designed to promote the efforts of an organization to the community it serves, hopefully generating further interest and assistance for the organization.

The students in the SAFE Club research and select the various organizations in the community doing this type of good work. The students are the ones who choose the organization to be honored and two of the student members present the award. The youth are involved to make them

more aware of organizations that are making a difference in the community and hopefully inspire their participation in the future.

It is unique that Turning Pointe has received this award, because the organization is not based out of North Mason. However, with the establishment of the North Mason DV office, it is looked to as providing key services for a worthy humanitarian cause in the north end. In October 2010, TP received a federal grant from the Office of Violence Against Women to open a satellite office in Belfair to provide services to the North Mason County area. Turning Pointe recognized the need for bilingual advocates who are cross trained to meet the needs of both domestic violence and sexual assault/abuse survivors in the area. Advocates provide services in the appropriate language to meet the needs of the large population of Hispanic and Guatemalan community members that live and work in North Mason, including 24/7 translation services for law enforcement working with survivors and victim support services, on scene, to improve victim safety and support.

The Turning Pointe satellite office is located in the North Mason County Resource building (23554 NE State Route 3, Belfair), a new non-profit agency that houses a multitude of support programs offering services to the community. People will find many services in close proximity that offer free and confidential support. The close work environment allows for quick and easy referrals to meet the needs of the people without having to send them to multiple agencies.



Adopt-A-Family, from p. 1

termine the size of the family you would like to adopt and Turning Pointe will provide you with a list of the family member's age and gender, clothing sizes, a "need" and a "want" for your considerations and food items needed if requested.

If you would like to be a sponsor in our Adopt a Family program please contact Teresa Morris, Program Coordinator at 426-1216 or by email at terresa@qwestoffice.net. You may also go to our website and submit the sponsor form online (www.turningpointe.org).

Volunteer News

Volunteer meeting: Volunteers for the Events Committee meet the first Tuesday of the month; the next meeting will be Dec. 6 from 10:30-noon at Turning Pointe, with the January meeting on Jan. 3, 2012.

Another **volunteer training** will be held in January 2012, from 9:30-5 pm at Turning Pointe. Please call the office for exact dates and to request an application. Approved applicants are required to serve for a minimum of six months. Call Cheryl, 426-1216.



Attention Artists!

We are looking for someone who is willing to donate their time and talent to paint our logo on the wall inside the lobby of the shelter. We also are looking for someone who could paint a mural in the shelter's children's room. Donations of paint would also be greatly appreciated. If you are interested, please call 426-1216.

Belfair DV support group

A support group for domestic violence survivors is available at the new Belfair satellite office of Turning Pointe. The group meets every Friday from 1-2:30 pm.

Belfair Turning Pointe is located in the Mason County Resource Center building, 23554 NE State Route 3, in Belfair. The building is in the Lincoln Center behind Peninsula Credit Union.

Questions? Call the Belfair office at 360-275-3652 or the Shelton office, 426-1216.

.....

DONATE YOUR USED VEHICLE TO TURNING POINTE!

That old clunker sittin' around collectin' dust, spiders and flat tires??
Donate it to Turning Pointe!

Contact Donate for Charity at 866-392-4483, or donate online at www.donateforcharity.com

They do the work, Turning Pointe gets as much as 80% of the deal. For more info, call Cheryl, 426-1216

.....



State Budget Shortfall – Crisis for Domestic Violence Services

What's at Stake:

Governor Chris Gregoire has called for a special legislative session beginning in late November, in order to address a \$1.4 billion dollar shortfall in the current biennial budget. She has asked all of her state agencies, including DSHS, for proposed reductions in state funding of 5% and 10%. DSHS has made the following recommendations:

1. A **\$4.675 million** reduction the DV shelter program. This is an approximate **50% cut** to state funding for the shelter program.
2. A \$83,000 cut to the DV prevention program (which funds services for underserved communities).
3. A \$32 million reduction to the TANF/Workfirst program, including reducing the 60 month time limit to 48 months, and slightly reducing the TANF grant
4. Elimination of the naturalization program as well as refugee/LEP services.

These cuts would have far reaching effects for survivors statewide. ***For Turning Pointe in Mason County, the cuts equate to another \$ 81,934.00, this is in addition to the \$13,000 cut we received earlier this year for a total of \$94,934.00 that we know of so far, creating a situation that is nothing less than dire.***

What Needs to Happen:

- 1) Contact your elected officials and strongly communicate these cuts are unacceptable—the state cannot continue to balance the budget at the expense of the most vulnerable citizens.

Rep. Fred Finn	360-786-7902
Rep. Kathy Haigh	360-726-7966
Sen. Tim Sheldon	360-786-7668
- 2) Ask your friends, family and colleagues to do the same: Every voice matters.
- 3) Tell legislators that the cuts have gone too far and that 2 years of "all cuts" budgets unjustly thrust the full burden of the recession on those least able to bear it. We want a balanced approach that means *equitable* cuts **combined with adding revenue**. Revenue can come from closing tax loopholes or looking at increasing some taxes or fees. What has already been cut has ripped apart our social safety net. Turning Pointe needs to be ready, willing and able to do what it takes to help advance a budget approach that generates revenue, and should adamantly oppose any budget proposal that focuses solely on cuts to services. The budget must create revenue and not jeopardize any further the health and safety of our most vulnerable citizens.

Possible Script:

You can say something to this effect, but by all means tailor it to be reflective of your thoughts:

Dear (Elected Official):

My name is (insert name) and I work, volunteer at Turning Pointe in Mason County where I help women and children fleeing domestic violence. The proposed DSHS 50% budget reduction to domestic violence shelter programs risks the lives of the victims we serve through our comprehensive domestic violence programs. Cuts of this magnitude would require Turning Pointe, the only domestic violence service provider in Mason County, to decrease the number of crisis beds available, further reduce staff, eliminate necessary program provisions, turn survivors seeking safety away and potentially close our doors during the day. A reduction in these service provisions leaves women and children fleeing lethal situations without other resources. The budget must require new revenue that closes tax loopholes and creates solutions that do not put the lives of the poor, elderly, disabled and vulnerable at risk. ***It is unacceptable to remove safety options for our most vulnerable populations without asking for sacrifices from all segments of our population.***

Continued from p. 2

Talking Points:

- 1) *Domestic violence victims must be able to rely on the critical safety programs offered at Turning Pointe :*
 - **Cuts of this magnitude mean staffing reductions that would equate to fewer available services for survivors** (in shelter, legal services, children’s program, support groups)
 - Currently, in spite of being the largest comprehensive domestic violence provider in Mason County, Turning Pointe cannot meet community needs.
 - Funding cuts that decreased staffing have already impacted our services by 50%.
 - Shelter turn away numbers have more than doubled in the last year, and we anticipate numbers to increase another 20%.
 - **Limiting access to safety and support services increases risk for victims, and decreases their ability to be self-sufficient.**
 - Leaving an abusive partner means the loss of income, housing, and medical insurance for most victims of domestic violence. Without a safety net of support services, they have to choose between remaining in a violent and potentially deadly household, or becoming homeless.
 - **Reduction or outright elimination of support services**
 - Including motel vouchers, bus tickets, taxi rides, fees for birth certificates, etc.
- 2) *The impact for Mason County:*
 - Turning Pointe of Mason County is the largest and most comprehensive domestic violence service provider in the county—cuts seriously impact the overall health and well-being of our community.
 - Homelessness will likely rise: Domestic violence is a public safety issue, a public health issue, the root cause of homelessness and poverty for women and children. Those effects will be gravely exacerbated.
 - Domestic homicide rates are already on the rise: there have been 16 DV related deaths in Mason County alone. **Reduction in service provision gives fewer options to survivors for escaping lethal situations.**
 - Mason County DV fatalities could easily rise and Turning Pointe services provide options for women in lethal situations.
- 3) *The bottom line:*
 - The proposed cuts ask our most vulnerable population to choose between potentially lethal domestic violence and having basic needs met.
 - Current funding is already insufficient and further cuts create an imminent safety risk for the community.
 - Cuts at this level create future costs to our community and our state by reducing the life-saving services programs are currently offering.
 - These costs impact all segments of the economy, including health care costs, employer costs, education costs, housing costs, in addition to the toll on the emotional and physical well-being of survivors and their children for years to come.

In surveys, Turning Pointe’s survivors share their dire need for service provision: **“What would you do if you could not get in to the shelter?”**

- Sleep in my car or on the streets
- Stay with my abuser and risk further injury or death
- I don’t know—I have no other options

No more “cut only” budgets! We demand a balanced approach to solving our state’s economic problems by generating new revenue, not just cutting life-saving services.

Are you a secondary victim?

Are you a secondary victim? Susan's relationship with her partner was great, but her sister was in an abusive relationship and Susan was the recipient of all the anguish her sister was dealing with on a daily basis. She started having a hard time sleeping and her health started going downhill. Her husband complained that she never seemed to be happy anymore. Finally she started seeing a therapist and explained to her that she was feeling depressed and couldn't understand why, her living situation couldn't be better. It turned out that she was a secondary victim.

When someone we care about is a victim of a traumatic event whether a car accident or a crime such as domestic violence or sexual assault, we can respond with similar reactions as the victim. This creates a secondary victim. You may respond with: shock, anger, sadness, anxiety, fear, almost anything is normal. This may make it difficult to be supportive. There is no wrong way to feel. What is important is to get the support you need so you can continue to support your loved one.

As sexual assault and domestic violence advocates we can help be that support for those who have loved ones who are experiencing the trauma of sexual assault and/or domestic violence. Turning Pointe and PASS (Prevention, Advocacy and Specialized Services) advocates reside at the North Mason Resource Center located at 23554 NE State Route 3, in Belfair, 360-275-9017 or you can reach an advocate in Shelton at 360-426-1216 or 360-427-1686. You are welcome to drop in any time, or you can make an appointment by phone that fits your schedule. We look forward to meeting you.

PLEASE DONATE YOUR USED CELL PHONES TO TURNING POINTE!

Take them to the Turning Pointe office, 210 Pacific Court (off W. Railroad Ave) in Shelton, or call 426-1216 for information.

Grupo de Apoyo para Mujeres Latinas (Hispanic women's support group)

Sobrevivientes De Violencia Domestica
(Survivors of Domestic Violence)

Cuando: Cada Viernes a las 12:00 p.m.
(When: Every Friday at 12:00 p.m.)

Donde: Sala de conferencias en Turning Pointe
(Where: Turning Pointe conference room)

El objetivo de nuestro grupo de apoyo es autorizar a sobrevivientes por educación, y compañerismo. Cubriremos unas 16 series de parte de discusiones que definirán el ciclo del abuso, los efectos en la familia, experiencias comunes de mujeres Derribadas, entre muchos otros temas.

Incorporaremos un 12 paso aproche a nuestro grupo de apoyo, a fin de reforzar nuestros objetivos de la obtención de poder.

(The objective of our support group is to empower survivors through education, and fellowship. We will be covering a 16 part series of discussions which will define the cycle of abuse, the effects on the family, common experiences of Battered women, among many other topics. We will be incorporating a 12 step approach to our support group, in order to strengthen our objectives of empowerment.)

Shelter News

Compiled by Ruth Stout, Shelter Manager

IMMEDIATE Shelter Needs:

Household items!!

(Dishes, silverware, strainers, big bowls, storage containers, large crock pot, drinking glasses, pans, blankets, pillows/pillow cases, bath towels)

Umbrellas!!

Ongoing needs:

Disposal diapers and Pull-Ups (all sizes), baby wipes, basic needs items (shampoo, conditioner, deodorant); food

Other Needs

School supplies (backpacks, paper, glue, pens, pencils, markers, crayons, scissors, folders, art supplies, lunch bags, etc.)

Car seats/booster seats

Gift cards (gas, Fred Meyer, Walmart, Safeway...)

Cleaning supplies (high efficiency laundry soap, bleach, Lysol disinfectant spray, Windex, Clorox wipes, cleaning gloves, garbage bags—13 gal/45gal)

Personal (new socks/slippers—all sizes, new finger & toe nail clippers, nail polish/remover)

Hair products (hair dryers)

Books about recovery/self help/DV/parenting/ children/teen

Comfy chairs for teen and children's rooms (bean bag chairs, video game chairs, etc.)

Stereo for teen room/adult room

Small appliances (coffee pots, toasters, mini microwaves)

Office/shelter grounds

Scissors, pens, office organizers

Garden storage shed/bench, hoses, hose holders

NOTE: TP cannot accept open containers of items. Contact us at 426-1216, if you have questions regarding appropriate shelter donations. Donations also may be taken to Treasures or Sonrise. They give us client vouchers, so be sure to indicate that the donation is in the name of Turning Pointe.

Quotes from client surveys:

"Honestly I would have been in bad shape without this place, especially the second time around. My advocate Ruth Stout is an amazing woman, very committed to her loved ones and her job. She is a genuine, strong, honest heart and I know I will never find anyone else like her in my life. She was here for me when no one else was. She was upfront and real and she helped me learn what it takes to survive but also to look inside myself and find out what it really means to love myself as well as other people. She showed me what it means to love myself as well as other people. She showed me what it means to take control and get what I want out of life. You really only get what you put in."



TURNING POINTE
Domestic Violence Services

Working together to end domestic violence in Mason County

NONPROFIT
US POSTAGE
PAID
SHELTON, WA
PERMIT #6

Return Service Requested

P.O. Box 2014
Shelton, WA 98584
Phone: 360-426-1216
Fax: 360-426-2922
E-mail: turningpointe@qwestoffice.net
Web site: www.turningpointe.org

See important information on what devastating state budget cuts will mean to the shelter, p. 1 and pp. 3-4

Gift Idea:
Consider honoring someone special in your life by making a tribute gift to Turning Pointe. We will send a card to the person being honored announcing your gift and its importance to Turning Pointe. The amount of your gift remains confidential. For your convenience, use the form below and the enclosed envelope. For more info, call 426-1216.

Calendar of Events

- Nov. 11, 12, Decorative Brick Sales:** 10-2 pm all days. Belfair Safeway.
- Dec. 6, Jan. 3, Events Committee meets:** First Tuesday of each month, 10:30-noon, Turning Pointe conference room.
- Shelton Support Group:** Thursdays, noon-1:30 in the Shelton office of Turning Pointe, conference room.
- Belfair Support Group:** Fridays, 1-2:30 pm, in the Belfair Turning Pointe office, located in the Mason Co. Resource Center Building, 23554 NE State Route 3, Belfair (behind Peninsula Credit Union); 360-275-3652
- Grupo de Apoyo para Mujeres Latinas:** Cada viernes a las 12:00 pm, en la sala de conferencias en Turning Pointe. (Hispanic women's support group, each Friday 12:00 pm, Turning Pointe conference room)
- July 21, 2012, Saturday, 4rd Annual Golf Classic:** Lake Limerick Golf Course. Tee time: 9 am. Watch for more details.

COMMITMENT FOR CHANGE

Count Me In!

Yes, I want to make a commitment for a monthly contribution to the domestic violence shelter in Mason County.

My Gift:

- \$200.00 \$100.00
 \$50.00 \$25.00
 Other: _____
for _____ months.

One time donation of \$ _____

Check enclosed (Payable to Turning Pointe)

Bill my Visa/ MasterCard

Account number _____

Expiration date _____

Signature _____

Name _____

Address _____

This gift is made in: Honor of Memory of Other

(birthday, anniversary, special occasion)

Name _____

Address _____

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

President:
Patti White
Vice President:
Marilyn Sayan
Secretary:
Dan Voorhees
Treasurer:
Pam Privette
Members at Large:
Judy Callaghan
Sandra Herndon
Det. William Adam
Jean Anderson

STAFF:

Executive Director:
Cheryl Cathcart
Program Coordinator:
Teresa Morris
Financial Coordinator:
Marsha Kershaw
Shelter Manager:
Ruth Stout
Reception/Support Svcs:
Sheila Underhill
DV Legal Advocate:
Sherri Donley
Newsletter Editor
Cathy Mecham

STAFF:

DV Advocates:
Rebecca Johnson
Susan Merriman
Helena (bilingual)
Dilma DeMartino (bilg)
Sherry Templeton (bilg)
Volunteers:
Merlyn Flakus
Linda Leichty
David Lofton (newsletter)
Newsletter Printing
Digital Printing, Shelton