

## **Community Impact Report**



#### A Letter from our Executive Director

As I reflect on the past year, I am filled with gratitude for the unwavering support of our community, partners, and donors. Your generosity and commitment to Turning Points for Children have made a profound impact on the lives of the children, youth, and families we serve.

At Turning Points, we believe that every child deserves a safe, supportive, and loving environment. Over the past year we have expanded our reach, strengthened our programs, and deepened our commitment to ensuring that every young person we serve has the resources and opportunities they need to thrive.

In September of 2023, our Future Directions plan was approved by the Turning Points Board of Directors. Since that time, we have been working very hard to achieve the goals and objectives of that plan, which was developed in close coordination with staff members, leadership, and clients. Thanks to your continued support, we have been able to shore up our current programming and develop some new initiatives.

Our over-arching goal is to provide services and programs which offer 21st Century solutions for the 21st Century needs of the children and families we exist to support. That means being innovative in our approach while building on the well-researched foundation we have been creating for now 190 years.

Whether it's providing high quality foster care to families disrupted by the child welfare system; helping teenage youth exiting the system to be better prepared for adulthood; or connecting youth in care to long-lost family members; providing critical parenting education and support to fathers (an often-neglected group) and teen parents; or developing new technological systems to track our services, we can assure you that our dedicated staff is going above and beyond to move families forward.

As we look ahead, we remain steadfast in our mission to build stronger families and give children and youth the hope for a brighter future. Thank you for being a vital part of our journey. Thank you for being part of a caring community. Thank you for being a turning point in the lives of those we serve.

With gratitude,

David Fair



### **Community-Centered Programs**



#### 2024 in Review: Community at the Center

At Turning Points, our community is made up of our dedicated staff, the individuals we serve, the West Philly neighborhood we call home, and the broader Philadelphia community—those we work with and walk alongside every day.

When we measure the impact of our programs, we focus on how each service helps build a thriving, inclusive community. This commitment is at the heart of everything we do and defines how we measure our success.

"Community means having common goals, common struggles, and knowing none of us are in it alone." -Haydn Williams, Kinship Support **Program Coordinator** 

#### **Family Services**



Project FAM, our parenting education program, gives parents tools and resources to help them better care for their families



Our Fatherhood program provides advocacy, group sessions, one-on-one support, and professional training opportunities to a growing community of close to 100 dads





7,694 pantry visits



1,437 families served





1,078 new clients

Of FAWN client household members,



42% are children

46% are adults

12% are elders

#### → Spotlight on FAWN ←

#### **FAWN** is changing communities.

Reliability, dignity, and community are core tenets of FAWN's operational philosophy. FAWN – the Food Access Wellness Network – operates two community food pantries: one in Olney, and the other in Southwest Philadelphia at Tilden Middle School. Serving close to 1500 people a month, the pantries are indispensable sources of nutritious food and wellness programming in their respective neighborhoods, especially since both are the only reliable choice-based pantries within a mile radius.





Being a choice-based model means that there's less food waste and families are able to shop with dignity. From the moment they walk in, visitors are warmly welcomed--not just into the pantry, but into the FAWN community. Clients become volunteers (some of whom you see pictured here), and they bring their neighbors and friends.

Many FAWN families report having to choose between buying food and paying rent, so our volunteers know just how vital FAWN is as a community where neighbors help neighbors.



A steady diet of nutritional foods reduces the risk of chronic disease, which over time means less health crises that entail visits to the emergency room or hospitalization. This saves taxpayer dollars and decreases costs for the families in the long run. Food insecurity is one symptom of the cycle of poverty. **FAWN's ultimate goal is to be a turning point in that cycle, and point people towards a healthier and brighter future.** 

#### **Foster Care Supports**



In 2024, Turning Points staff supported **771** children and families with Foster Care services and parenting classes

#### **Our Kinship Support Program is changing lives.**

As friends or family of the bio-parent, kinship caregivers face unique challenges as resource parents. Through regular events, support groups, emergency assistance, and an advisory board, our staff is dedicated to building a community of caregivers.

At our Kinship Back to School fair in August, caregivers bonded with their kids and other families. They shared how meaningful it was to get support with school supplies and things like fresh haircuts for their kids' first day. Our events center joy and support so that, even when times are tough, our families know they're never alone.





Turning Points is the only nonprofit in Philadelphia with a Kinship Advisory Board, in which former and current kinship parents help guide the direction of programming and support that we provide.

With the specialized kinship support that Turning Points offers, caregivers are better able to navigate being in the foster care system and take on the challenges of being the caregiver for a child when their bio-parents aren't able to.



Our Family Finding staff found connections for **123** youth. They have located **200,000** connections since its inception in 2010, and **24,000** have become permanent adult supports in the child's life

#### **Older Youth Services**





We supported **488** young people with in our Older Youth Programs

Our programs provide crucial support with key factors in helping young people build stability during vulnerable transition periods, whether aging out of foster care or navigating challenges after an arrest. These factors include:

- housing
- · employment
- · emotional regulation
- family relationships
- independent living

vouth in 2024:



ReUP215 is diversion program that partners with the DA's office where charges are expunged after successful completion. Accomplishments include:

- Most youth stay in contact with our diversion coaches who continue to support them past discharge
- 70% successfully discharged
- 50% of youth were discharged with 2 or more community supports
- 100% housing stability
- · 93% education stability
- 100% showed stable mental health



Our ELECT program provides case management for parenting teens to support with graduating, emotional well-being, and tools for healthy parenting

Our BIPS prevention program engaged 138

Youth reported increased coping skills

and emotional regulation

sessions & workshops

family relationships

• 93% attendance rate for group

• 75% of youth reported improved



With funding from HUD, our staff successfully housed **20** homeless young people





#### Making Our Communities Stronger and Saving Taxpayer Money

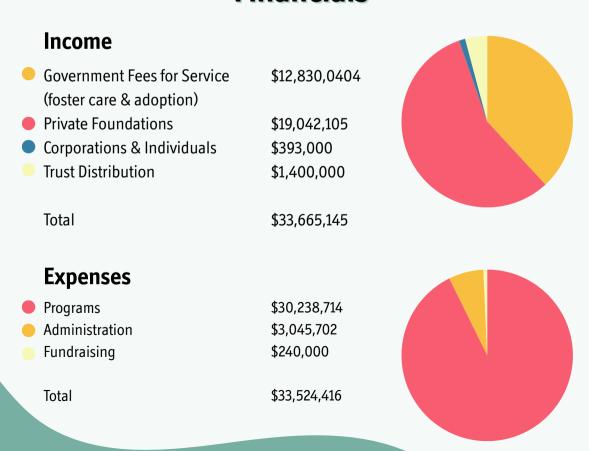
Our staff help young people become self sufficient, which:

- · contributes to our local economy
- decreases risk of homelessness
- decreases rates of involvement in the criminal justice system

Investing in these supports not only changes lives but also saves taxpayer dollars while strengthening communities.

- 488 youth in Older Youth Services x \$64,682 per incarcerated person<sup>1</sup> = saving \$31,564,816 in taxpayer
   dollars a year
- 20 youth in safe housing x \$35,578 per chronically unhoused person<sup>2</sup> = saving \$711,560 in taxpayer dollars a
  year

#### **Financials**



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>According to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania breakdown from Fiscal Year 2021-22

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>According to the National Alliance to End Homelessness

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