

Visions . . .

A Publication of Bay Area Turning Point, Inc.

Winter 2007



Bay Area Turning Point, Inc.

An Ambitious Mission

By Diane Savage, President and CEO

Each year, the Board of Directors participates in a Strategic Planning retreat to look at our past, evaluate our present, and to chart our future. One retreat identified the need to serve more women and children in our shelter facility. Thus, in January of this year, we embarked on a major project to expand our shelter. We will celebrate the project success and recognize our contributors in the next Visions.

At the September retreat, the board and staff reviewed another area that the agency has embraced this year - how to participate and engage our community in preventing sexual assault and family violence. We are here when violence does occur, but what more can we do to stop it from happening? You might say we asked what would need to happen for BATP to close its doors and disconnect its hotline. While researching the dynamics of prevention, we identified several tasks that the agency could implement quickly. We developed new materials to inform our community of prevention strategies, we have added visual resources to our library, and we have developed several new curriculums to teach prevention strategies on sexual assault, battering, violence in the workplace, community impact, and anti-victimization of youth. We began to invite our community to open discussions about prevention strategies and societal change.

One outcome of this year's journey is that our shelter is not the only thing getting a face-lift at BATP. At the board retreat, we updated our mission to reflect our values – a commitment to the services we have provided for sixteen years and our commitment to collaborate with the greater community to impact violence prevention. Our mission now states “Bay Area Turning Point, Inc. provides recovery solution services for survivors of family violence and sexual assault and facilitates prevention strategies for societal change in partnership with our community”.

I hope that you will embrace our mission and continue to support our efforts – as critically needed now as sixteen years ago. I ask that you consider how you can be involved in creating a safer world – a safer home. We recognize that our mission is ambitious, but we believe that working together it is attainable. Please get involved by attending one of our community discussion meetings; encouraging your church, neighborhood or civic group to invite BATP to a discussion on prevention strategies; asking your employer to host a “When Violence Comes to Work” or a sexual assault prevention workshop; volunteering your time and talents in one of our programs; and, sharing your financial resources to ensure our services are here when needed and that we also have the resources to implement prevention strategies in our community. Call to see how you can help to implement prevention activities.

Focusing on prevention today can make a difference in the peace and health of the homes of our children and their children tomorrow. Please see “What Every Person Can Do” located in this publication and call us if you have ideas to share or want to be involved.

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~
Resale Shop
18028 Nassau Bay Drive
Nassau Bay, Texas 77058
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“Ribbons in the Sky” Candlelight Vigil

In 2006, the Texas Council on Family Violence reports that 120 women were killed by their intimate partner in Texas. There are, undoubtedly, other victims of domestic violence who remain uncounted. Authorities will sometimes refer to the offender as an “acquaintance” or “unknown” because the relationship was not determined at the time of death.

In remembrance of the 120 women, who lost their lives in the State of Texas at the hands of a person they once loved and trusted, Bay Area Turning Point hosted a Candlelight Vigil on Wednesday, October 10, 2007 at Walnut Park in Webster. The vigil included a processional from our Crisis Intervention Center to Walnut Park with participants chanting “I see the blood all over your hands/Does it make you feel more like a man? We say NO MORE. IT IS TIME to STOP THE VIOLENCE”.



Nytea Howard, Legal Advocate at Bay Area Turning Point read each name and selected stories of those killed to share with the audience. Patricia Contreas of The Angels of Christ, A Women’s Ministry sang and shared her story as a survivor and shelter clients shared their stories. We thank everyone who joined us for this evening of healing.

Domestic violence is a costly and devastating problem in our country. It is the leading cause of injury to women, causing more injuries than muggings, stranger rapes and car accidents combined. Every month, more than 50,000 U.S. women seek restraining or protection orders from the courts. The effects of this crime are far reaching. It is a problem that occurs in every community, even our own.

AGE		LIST OF WOMEN KILLED STATISTICS	NATURE OF DEATH				
Minimum Age	14		Common Law Wife	15	Homicide	77	
Maximum Age	68	Estranged Wife	12	Murder-suicide	43		
Average Age	36.13	Ex-girlfriend	9	CAUSE OF DEATH			
VICTIM GENDER		Ex-wife	4	Beaten with Hands	9		
Female	120	Girlfriend	29	Shot	76		
CHILDREN		Wife	51	Strangled	17		
Children Killed	6				Strangled	12	
Children who Lost Parent	77				Weapons Used	2	
						Other	3

Crosses



Bay Area Turning Point placed 120 crosses on St. John Drive and NASA Road 1 in Nassau Bay to symbolize each life loss in 2006. The display was exhibited throughout the month of October.

This project strives to make our community aware of the plight of so many women and children. We also hope to reach young men and women by offering a startling visual of the extreme consequences of violence. It is important to reach young people to break the cycle of abuse before they become adults. Violence Against Women is not just a Women’s Issue but a Society Issue and we must all come together to end violence in our homes, neighborhoods, workplaces and schools. If you are a coach for a male sports team, male youth group leader, or a teacher, please contact Bay Area Turning Point and get involved. For more information contact Diane Savage at (281) 338-7600.

"All You Need Is Love"

The Friends of B ATP (FB ATP) will host the 12th Annual Men and Women of Heart Gala on Saturday, February 23, 2008 in the Crystal Ballroom of South Shore Harbor Resort and Conference Center. Get ready for an enchanting evening with a 1960s' flair. The annual event will honor 10 philanthropic community leaders who have made a difference in the Greater Bay Area community. The theme, "All You Need is Love", by the Beatles, is the perfect symbol of not only the



actions of the honorees but everyone who reaches out to make society better. The co-chairman for the event, Russell and Yvonne Herring are long-time supporters of B ATP and look forward to hosting this exciting event. Russell Herring says, "In addition to the honoree presentations, auctions, and music, there will also be a casino as an added bonus!" For ticket information and more details, call Sybil Winters-Little at (281) 338-7600.

Drive your *Dream Raffle!*

Hooray for Lexus of Clear Lake! Clear Lake Lexus employees purchased 200 raffle tickets to this year's annual Drive Your Dream raffle and pulled the first place \$30,000 new car voucher at the drawing held at Allen Samuels Chrysler Plymouth on August 14, 2007. After winning, Clear Lake Lexus employees immediately decided to donate their prize back to the agency. Their donation was applied to the renovation/expansion project at our shelter. The Board of Directors, management and staff, thank Clear Lake Lexus for their generosity

and support. Diane Savage, President/CEO says, "These funds were critically needed and will help change lives in the Bay Area".

Janet Flannery of Clear Lake won second prize, a 40" Sony flat panel TV, and Martha Rodriguez of Clear Lake won the third prize, a HP laptop computer.

Kudos to Sally Rankin, B ATP Chairman of the Board, for all of her hard work and dedication to make this event a success. Many, many thanks to Joey Dupuis of Clear Lake Lexus, Joan McKinney and Norman Frede for donating decorations, and to all who bought and sold tickets.



Chevron Global Investment

Each year Chevron selects twenty non-profit leaders from around the world to participate in the Chevron Management Institute. Chevron covers the cost of one week of intense learning, including hotel, meals and travel. I was honored to be selected as a participant in the 2007 Institute and found the experience to be invaluable. Sharing best practices and strategic planning with leaders from as far away as Africa and as close to home as San Francisco brought diverse insights and experiences to the discussions.



"We now accept the fact that learning is a lifelong process of keeping abreast of change." Peter F. Drucker (1909-2005), often called the world's most influential business guru and a recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2002.

I want to thank Chevron for its continuing commitment to investing its resources in our society and helping leaders to grow along this journey of learning.
~Diane Savage



Bay Area Turning Point Holiday Wish List 2007

Christmas in shelter can be a time of sadness for the women and children in shelter, but it is also often a time of celebrations. They celebrate being free from violence and having a peaceful Christmas. They start to count the many blessings that surround them, not the least of which is the care and generosity they see in their community. If you would like to be a part of their blessing, you may want to share with B ATP and its clients by purchasing a gift from our Holiday wish list. You can be that unseen blessing this Christmas.

CHILDREN:

- Books, games, toys-all ages
- Passes to movies, putt-putt, bowling, and other activities
- Clothing-all sizes
- Gift Certificates for clothing stores, discount stores and fast food establishments
- Portable CD /DVD Players, Walkmans, Discmans
- Diaper Bags, Baby Swings, strollers
- Diapers, all sizes and pull-ups all sizes
- Diaper wipes
- 2 car seats (new please)
- 2 booster seats (new please)

WOMEN:

- Lightweight robes, gowns, slippers
- Alarm Clocks (25); Radios; Watches
- Hair dryers, curling irons
- Towels, washcloths, sheet sets (full and queen)
- Stamps, journals, phone cards
- Personal planning calendars
- Gift Certificates for clothing stores
- Gift Certificates for groceries
- Underwear, gowns and pajamas (especially sizes Large and X-Large)

AGENCY:

- Financial support is our MOST pressing need
- Underwriting for printing costs of outreach literature
- New pillows and twin size blankets
- Over-the-counter medications/first aid supplies
- Grocery gift certificates
- Gift wrap, bows, scotch tape, gift name tags, Large Gift Bags
- Kitchen Linens (towels, washcloths, pot holders); Paper towels
- Money to purchase bunk beds/furniture for shelter bedrooms
- Electric Mixer; Commercial Pots and Pans
- (2) Automated External Defibrillators
- High Quality Digital Camera
- Shredder (large/heavy duty)
- Entry credenza; Plants (live)
- Volunteer to redesign our website
- Volunteers for Resale shop, maintenance, childcare and bilingual crisis hotline calls

"Child"

By: Shelter Resident, Shelly



I am Love in a world that so often hates for no reason.
Trust when there is no reason to.
Faith when so many have stopped believing.
I am vulnerability born of innocence, that still sees an open door long after it has been closed...
And locked.

I am the eyes of a child...
Forever loving, forever trusting, and forever seeking the open door that leads to my dreams.

A New Home

As part of the shelter renovations, our childcare facility has increased from one multi-age room to three separate rooms designed for infants/toddlers, children and teenagers.

Within our Children's Services, Bay Area Turning Point strives to develop the whole child – physically, socially, and emotionally. We are committed to help each child achieve developmental milestones that are often impacted by the violence they have experienced. In our new childcare area, we continue to do just that. Infants and toddlers are enjoying their own space and have much more freedom to crawl and discover. The three and four year olds are eager to come to "school" and experience learning in a preschool environment. We welcome our school-aged children in the afternoons and continue age-appropriate activities and homework assistance. And, of course, the teens kick back in their own space relaxing with music and games before hitting the books.

If you would like to help enhance our children's growth, development and knowledge, please consider volunteering your time and talents. Call Jarita Sepulvado at (281) 338-7600 to become a member of the childcare team. You'll be making a great investment in the life of a child and building tomorrow's leaders.



WISH LIST FOR CHILDCARE

- Play Dress-Up Outfits, especially career type outfits
- Crib Sheets
- Wet Wipes
- Hand Soap
- Room Size Rugs
- 2 Flat Screen LCD/HD Televisions (26" or larger) with wall mount kit
- Peg boards
- Volunteers who want to make a difference in the lives of children.

Resale Shop

One of the most successful ways we raise money to support BATA's shelter is through our resale shop. All the profits go directly to benefit the shelter.

To accommodate busy schedules, the resale shop is open 10am to 7pm, Tuesday through Saturday and is located at 18028 Nassau Bay Drive, Nassau Bay, Texas.

We attract shoppers who want to extend their buying dollar. "What? Buy pre-owned clothes?" That is a reaction many people have until they see the low prices, good quality and large selection. If you have expensive taste and like to fill your closet with designer clothing, but don't like to pay retail, then shopping BATA's resale shop will be a wonderful surprise.

The speed with which children grow and the expense for new clothes, especially for larger sizes, makes resale shopping not only exciting and fun, but sensible and money saving. Teens have more expendable income than ever before, much of which they earn themselves. They are careful how they spend those hard earned dollars and have included resale shopping as a priority.

It is the time of the year when we all want to start saving. What is a better way to start saving than by checking out BATA's Resale Shop. And, of course, donations are always greatly appreciated. We have an on-going need for inventory in the form of high-quality merchandise in

gently used condition. Are you downsizing, refining your collections, or just cleaning closets and drawers? Please consider donating to BATA's resale shop. New items come in daily. Our shop features better jewelry, good shoes, bags and accessories, artwork, household items, glassware, furniture, current fashions for men, women and children. Since we don't have the facilities for repair, we cannot accept damaged or soiled items, large appliances, garage sale leftovers, exercise equipment, obsolete computers or used mattresses (although bed frames and head/footboards are welcome).

The backbone of the resale shop is the volunteers. The volunteers provide invaluable support by helping operate the shop by accepting donations, sorting merchandise, pricing items and placing them in the store, operating the cash register, keeping the shop orderly; and greeting and assisting the shoppers. We invite you to become a BATA resale shop volunteer and support this effort. If you would like to volunteer, contact Jarita Sepulvado at 281.338.7600.

Sign-up to receive e-mail about upcoming sales events by sending an e-mail to jsepulvado@bayareaturningpoint.com, and we will add you to the e-mail list.

So now you know what to do with your clean, in good repair and in season no longer needed items. Take them to BATA's resale shop and do a little shopping while you're there.

Bay Area Turning Point Resale Shop

This coupon entitles the owner to

25% off
of your total purchase!

BATP Resale Shop
18028 Nassau Bay Drive, Nassau Bay, TX 77058
(281) 333-4411

Prevention of Violence in the Community

In the past decade, many crimes have decreased in the Greater Bay Area. However, when violence does occur, it is often extremely violent and the impact reaches beyond the victim and extends to their family, friends, and neighbors.

Now imagine a community where violence is no longer a factor. That is the goal of Bay Area Turning Point, Inc. Utilizing funds from the Office of the Attorney General, Bay Area Turning Point will gather information from the community regarding the prevention of violence in the Greater Bay Area as well as gather community members to create a Community Workgroup to address and implement solutions.

Several community forums will be held throughout 2007-2008. Those events will include a film and discussion series, town hall meetings, and presentations to businesses and community groups. Join us and speak out against violence.

The film and discussion series began September 17, 2007 at the Freeman Library. The remaining dates are as follows:

December 17, 2007	"Crime in Connecticut: The Story of Alex Kelly"
January 21, 2008	"Stalking"
February 18, 2008	"Understanding Prejudice: Gripes and Common Ground"
March 17, 2008	"Teen Relationships and Sexual Pressures"
April 21, 2008	"Childhood Sexual Abuse"
May 19, 2008	"United Against Crime: Missing & Exploited Children: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow"
June 16, 2008	"I Grow Old"
July 21, 2008	"Domestic Violence: The Workplace Responds"
August 18, 2008	"Defending Our Lives"

Bay Area Turning Point is also hosting town hall meetings targeting Apartment communities in the Greater Bay Area. Our first meeting was held September 27th at the Webster Civic Center. For more information on how to sign-up for our Community Workgroup or to schedule a Violence Prevention presentation for your company, community group/organization and/or housing association, please contact Patrina Pelton-Smith at (281) 338-7600.

A Final Act of Violence

It was Sunday night. Most of us had spent a quiet evening and prepared for a new week. That becomes the Sunday evening routine for many people. Unfortunately, for one man and one woman in Taylor Lake Village, Texas, this night would not be routine. This night would add one more horrific scene in a cycle of abuse that had spanned many years.

While many of us were retiring for the night, police officers and emergency units headed to Timbercove Blvd. On that road, one man was standing by a tree holding a gun with the intent to shoot himself. His estranged wife stood in the distance trying to help the police officers calm him and curtail catastrophe. Police formed a barricade to detour traffic from the road, lest others be placed in harm's way. Everyone waited, hoping to stop an escalation of violence.

This scene was written upon years of abuse in a marriage that ultimately ended in divorce. Finally, the riveting sound of a gunshot was his escape. He shot himself in the chest, ending his life. Perhaps it was his not knowing how to stop his abusive patterns or no longer having her for a target of his rage - and so he stopped his breathing. Perhaps his action was meant to be a final infliction of abuse as a means to continue to affect the rest of her life. For her, the pain will yet continue. She is left to mourn his death and wonder why it had to end in an act of violence. She may wonder what she could have said and replay the scene multiple times in her thoughts. She may even second guess her decision to end their relationship and the abuse. She is left to face a journey of healing.

Empowering yourself to escape abuse is a right decision and we hope she will come to know that. We hope she will come to feel proud of her courage. We hope that she will come to a place of peace. Everyone has a right to take steps to remove abuse from their life. We are not responsible for the abuser and his or her actions.

Almost nightly, the media reports similar acts of violence. What we know is that the death of either the perpetrator or the victim is all too common. Nobody and no community are immune. That is why you will hear BATP say that we "celebrate survivors" because to live through domestic violence is cause to celebrate. It can always end the other way. BATP sends its message of hope and peace to one survivor in our community. She bravely wanted this story told to help others to know that abuse can, and too often does, end in tragedy.

If you or someone you know is being abused, consider reaching out to BATP for assistance. You do not have to go through this alone. 24-Hour Hotline: (281) 286-2525. All services are confidential and are provided without charge. As a community member, consider participating in solutions and prevention strategies to impact change.



Domestic Violence: The Art of the Matter

To help increase the community's awareness of violence against women, men, and children, BATP held its annual Domestic Violence: the Art of the Matter Contest and Exhibit at the University of Houston Clear Lake. The exhibit was displayed in the Bayou Building, Atrium II, Level II from October 11th through October 26th for public viewing.

This year, there were six entries depicting some aspect of domestic violence. Our first place prize was \$150.00 cash donated by Diane Savage, President/CEO and a 1-year family membership donated by the Museum of Fine Arts Houston. The first place winner was Kevin Nguyen's "Silence". This piece will be used to design publications and brochures on Teen Dating Violence. The 2nd Place winner was Stephanie King's "Your Slap Stung, But Now I'm Stronger". She received a \$75 gift card donated from Half Price Books-Clear Lake. The 3rd Place prize, \$50 gift card to Best Buy, was awarded to Tim Kinser's "Pretzel Lovers" and was donated to the agency. We congratulate all

of our winners and thank our additional participants; Shruti Revankar "An Unbearable Burden", Nancy Oden "My Jewels", and Danica Becker "Reaching Out".

Following the awards ceremony Patrina Pelton-Smith, BATP Non-Residential Services Manager, led a discussion about domestic and sexual violence prevention strategies.

We thank the University of Houston Clear Lake for sponsoring this annual event and for their continued support. We also thank our judges; Leslie Kriewaldt, Bay Area Arts Alliance and Marjorie Paben, UHCL, our additional sponsors; The Museum of Fine Arts Houston and Half Price Books-Clear Lake, and Mary Ann Shallberg, Charity Ellis, Wanda Honeycutt, and Karen Fiscus of the University of Houston-Clear Lake for assisting us with this event.

STAND Against Violence: A Step Forward

Across the country, during the month of October, battered women's advocates have joined with government officials, corporations, healthcare providers, faith-based groups and others to organize Domestic Violence Awareness Month activities that raise community awareness about domestic violence. In continuing with this tradition, Bay Area Turning Point hosted its annual STAND Against Violence event at Christus St. John Hospital on Saturday, October 27th.

The event included a Walk for Peace followed by our STAND event. Bay Area Turning Point would like to thank the Seabrook Rotary Club and Elvert Del Rosa for providing all of the food for this event, Mike Allison and the Sixteen Five Praise Band for our entertainment and music, the City of Nassau Bay, Kelli Savage of the Harris County Coordinating

Council on Domestic Violence, all of our booth participants; the Red Cross-Bay Area, Houston SPCA, Bhawna Luthra of FTSA at the University of Houston-Clear Lake, Yvonne and Jimmy Marr of Sagemont Church's Clown Ministry, M.D. Anderson Clinical Center-Bay Area, Crossroads; and those who joined us for this fun day.

A special thanks and appreciation goes to Christus St. John Hospital for allowing Bay Area Turning Point to use their grounds and facilities. We are proud of our partnership with the hospital and look forward to continuing our collaboration. This event would not have been as successful without the assistance of Bonnie Sapp, Myrna Baker and Rhonda Bullard of Christus St. John Hospital.

Defining the Problem

Violence against women presents a complex and costly problem for the state of Texas. Recent statewide prevalence studies report nearly 2 million Texans have been sexually assaulted in their lifetimes and fully 47 percent of Texans experience domestic violence in their lifetimes. In addition, 113 females were murdered by intimate partners in Texas in 2001, resulting in a state homicide rate for this type of crime well above the national average. The costs are extremely high, particularly for the public health sector, and current resources cannot support those who suffer the many consequences of violence against women.

Prevention efforts designed to stop sexual assault, domestic violence and stalking before they occur are just beginning in the state. Over the past twenty years, Texas has emphasized intervening to assist and protect victims and their families once violence occurs. Likewise, this seems to be the situation nationally and internationally, with advocates and public health entities just beginning to focus attention on developing concerted prevention strategies.

Many stakeholders have already committed to working together to focus on making primary prevention of violence against women a public health priority by signing on to participate in the implementation of pieces of the plan for action presented here. In addition, many more will be invited to participate in the next phase of this initiative. This strategic plan was developed by building on the experience and knowledge of those committed to ending sexual assault, domestic violence and stalking in Texas. It will be implemented only through sustained commitment, creative use of resources and continued collaboration, respecting each Texan's ability to help solve these serious health problems.

Excerpt from The Texas Department of Health (TDH) "A Strategic Plan to Prevent Violence Against Women in Texas", a strategic plan developed by the Violence Against Women Prevention Advisory Committee (VAWPAC).

Words of Thanks

I came to Bay Area Turning Point under a little bit different domestic violence circumstances, in that my abuser was not a spouse or a boyfriend, but a landlord. It had become an unbearable situation due to his mental problems, and when he was standing in the room of his house I had rented from him screaming he hated me and wanted me out of his house I knew it was time to leave. Due to financial circumstances, I had nowhere else to go, but couldn't force myself to return there even after a weekend cooling off period, which had worked in the past.

My call to the hotline was answered with professional compassion and I was accepted into shelter. My plan of staying just a couple of weeks and then sharing an apartment with a roommate was evaluated and discussed with my caseworker, and I decided that the best option for me would be to stay in shelter, work on my financial issues, gain knowledge about myself and why I had ended up in the transitional housing program. B ATP was very helpful with the referral for supportive housing and my caseworker helped me maintain my focus on financial and emotional goals that were that were important to me. I can't say that staying in shelter for three months was the easiest thing I've ever done because it takes a concerted effort to keep your commitment level high and continue to meet goals, make meetings, complete chores and cooking duties, obey the rules and regulations, as well as maintain employment. I had to keep my mind on the end objective, not allow myself to be distracted with the mundane job of living and chance of losing focus on what was really important. I continually received encouragement from my caseworker, my therapist and other staff, but it was still difficult at times not to give up, leave shelter, and take the easy way out. I have proven to myself that I can set a goal, work toward it and accomplish what I set out to do even if I do have setbacks along the way. B ATP was very supportive of me throughout this process.

Nanci S.

TO BAY AREA TURNING POINT

I am PP, and on behalf of my niece (PT) and her son, I would like to recognize the outstanding support that the staff at Bay Area Turning Point provided PT and her son during their ordeal as victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. Bay Area Turning Point protected PT and her son from a life threatening situation and restored their hope for a better life.

PT and her son will never forget all the wonderful staff at B ATP, especially Serinthia and Sandy. Because of their protection, support, and love, PT and her son were able to move out of a fearful and hopeless life, and quickly started their new life at B ATP's shelter. My niece says, "That she could never repay B ATP for all that they have done for her family, and will always remember them in her prayers and ask God to bless them all with good health, happiness, and his love".

I hope that B ATP will continue to support PT as they build their new life. Thank you very much again and again for the outstanding support!

May God bless you always,
Signed PP, 5 June 2007

Essential to a Healthy Society A Community Sharing it's Resources



Everyone knows that non-profits are able to do their good works with a lot of community support - and financial contributions are always needed. It must at times make us look like beggars and in some ways we certainly are. Not a flattering label. But most of us in the human services arena are so passionate about our mission and ensuring that those who need our help receive it, that we plead on their behalf. We know that because we are here, many lives are saved, mended and rebuilt. We know we enhance the overall health of society. A healthy society is built on solid businesses, strong families, and commitment that even its least equipped member will receive help to reach upward for a higher standard of life.

Perhaps you can be that unseen hand that draws them upward to a better life - one without fear, violence and abuse. Your helping hand can make a difference in the way a child views his/her world as they begin to shape their beliefs on how they fit into society. This winter, please consider offering your hand by either volunteering your time or sending in a contribution.

Serving thousands of people each year would not be possible without our volunteers. Volunteers are needed for BATA's childcare, food services, resale shop, maintenance and repairs, clerical projects, hotline and more. We even need volunteers to help us clean our offices as we do not have janitorial services - our funds are directed more to services. One time project opportunities include our community food drives, staffing our Christmas store, helping in community awareness literature campaigns, and fundraising events.

Serving thousands of people each year would not be possible without financial support. Creative ways to give money (the shopping channels call it "price points", but let's get real - its dollars) include making a gift in honor of a loved one. BATA will send the honoree a card to tell them of your generosity. This can be done for birthdays, weddings, anniversaries, holiday wishes and in lieu of a gift, the birth of a child, employee recognitions, a celebration of someone's recent

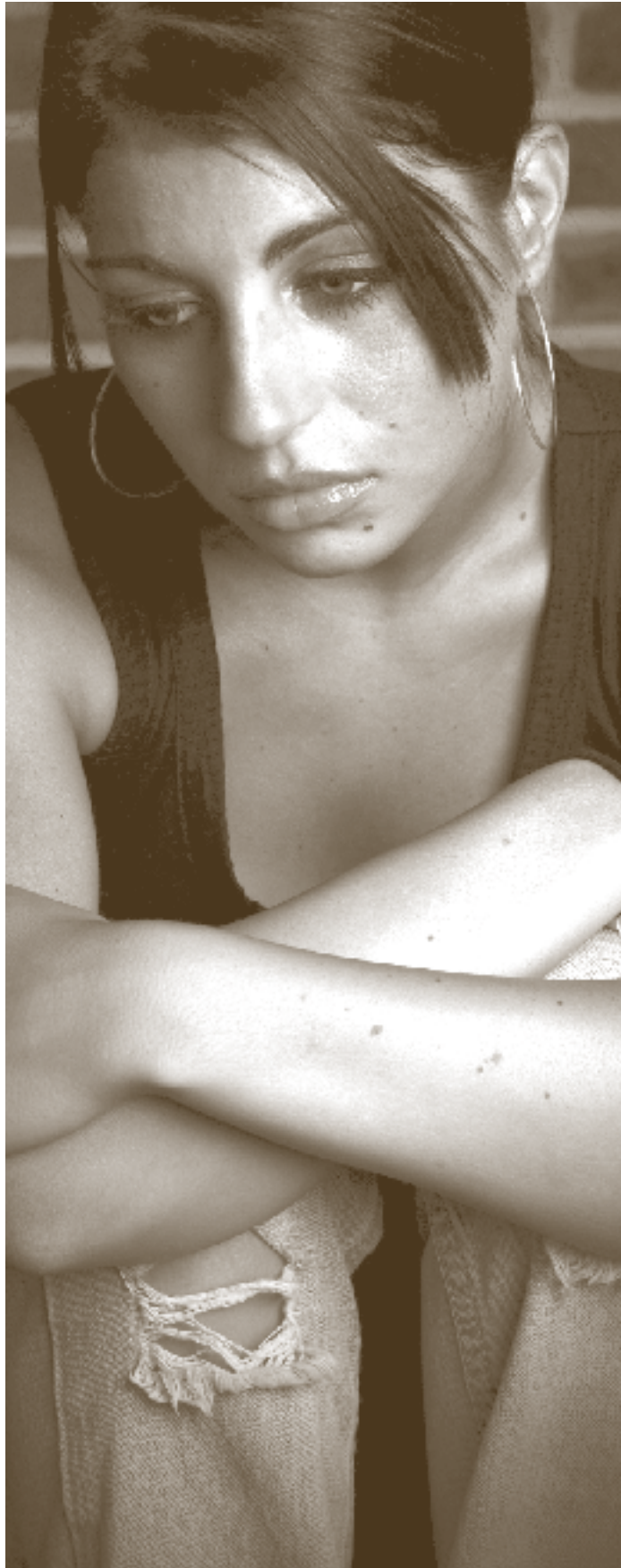
success, and many other reasons. Your gift can be paid by cash, check or credit card.

Perhaps you'd rather be a member of The Partners Club, an exclusive club of individuals, churches, civic groups and companies who have committed to a monthly donation of \$35 or more. These members receive recognition at our annual meeting, the CEO's monthly "Keep in Touch" update, the agency's Annual Report and, recognition in the agency's newsletter and on our website. Partners are those committed supporters that we know we can count on as we plan and deliver critical services.

Bay Area Turning Point relies on your help to be able to help all of the people that count on us. The Harris County Community Plan states "services for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault are critical". The Galveston County Community Plan states "Domestic violence places children at risk for direct injury and decreased supervision while contributing to the development of physically and sexually aggressive behaviors, substance abuse, and decreased academic performance. Children victimized by domestic violence in turn tend to react in violent ways to their environment".

We must prevent our children from following a path that leads to a destructive or hopeless future. Please consider your financial resources, or your time and talents, and decide today to be a part of solutions through a one time gift, becoming a Partner and making a monthly gift and/or volunteering.

Pam Merrill, BATA Founding Board Chair, often says, "If not me, then who"? That personal belief drove her to be at the fore front of establishing BATA. As you read our newsletter, I hope you will celebrate our successes, appreciate our challenges, and ask yourself that same question. Your answer could impact the way our society responds to violence and abuse.



Prevention Strategies - What Every Person can Do

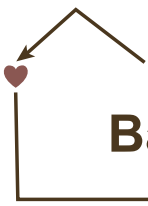
- Address jokes that objectify women
- Initiate discussions with your co-workers and friends about how prevalent they think sexual assault and family violence is and brainstorm about its causes and what may prevent it
- Ask your physician to talk about sexual assault and family violence with patients and to keep informational literature displayed in their office. BATP can provide literature for its community
- Invite BATP to speak at a church or civic group to which you belong
- Share what you learn about violence with others and help to cross the issues “off of taboo list” and end the personal shame victims often feel
- Raise money or collect “need list” items for BATP
- Offer anti-sexual and physical violence to local dance studios as a positive music alternative. Be aware of the lyrics and message of music and do not support artist and labels that promote violence in any form
- Partner with BATP to set up prevention displays at local libraries, businesses, health care offices, and other visible sites
- Ask the vendors you use and your favorite restaurants to support BATP through event underwriting, hosting a one-time fundraising event or setting up a display or inviting BATP to speak with their employees.
- When making major purchases, ask BATP if the vendor supports the mission of BATP. Many local business owners do and we proudly encourage our supporters to utilize their services and products.
- Ask the organizations that recruits and employs adults who interact with your child (teachers, scout leaders, camp directors, dance instructors, bus drivers, coaches, etc.) to call BATP for training in sexual assault and violence awareness
- Share any other ideas you have about prevention strategies with BATP

Our Mission:

Bay Area Turning Point, Inc. provides recovery solution services for survivors of family violence and sexual assault and facilitates violence prevention strategies for societal change in partnership with our community.

Our Vision:

*Peace . . . Every Woman, Every Child,
Every Man . . . Every Day*



Bay Area Turning Point, Inc.

Peace . . . Every Woman, Every Child, Every Man . . . Every Day

P.O. Box 57543
Webster, Texas 77598-7543

24-Hour Hotline (281) 286-2525

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Please send donations to the
P.O. Box above.

United Way of
Greater Houston



Affiliate

