

Turning Point Times- June 2025



June 2025 Turning Point graduates. Pictured from left to right, Jaden Gisentaner, Marissa Cartwright, Timothy Henry, Tara Lock, Judge Oldfield, Brett Kelly, Harrison Meek, and Lawrence Munford

As part of the graduation process, participants complete a Mission Statement and Community Plan for themselves moving forward. The following quotes have been pulled from the graduates' statements.

"Today I'm almost a year and a half sober. I have a job, a car, and most importantly I'm surrounded by family and friends that love me. No matter how dark your life may get, there is always hope and only you can make the decision to change," said Harrison Meek.

"I hope and pray that someday I can qualify to be a part of the Turning Point and Oriana House Inc., programs so that I can give back what was so graciously given to me," said Timothy Henry.

"I am now 19 months clean and sober. I wouldn't have gotten here if it wasn't for the Turning Point Team, for my family, sober support, and for believing in my abilities," said Marissa Cartwright. "I don't have to end up just a statistic, I am more than just a number, I am and will be a legacy,"

"I know that sobriety must come first, because without it everything else falls apart. I want to thank the Turning Point Team for the endless support and accountability I've received throughout the program, and my family for never giving up on me as hard as I've made it not to," said Tara Lock.

"I owe it all to my wonderful Caseworker Nicole Jones, my wonderful Probation Officer Nikki Lambert, the rest of the Turning Point Team, and the best judge a criminal could ever have, Joy Oldfield. I thank you guys so much for turning my life around, for that I'm forever grateful," said Jaden Gisentaner.

"My mission is simple: to keep moving forward, one day at a time. To take the pain I lived through and use it as fuel to build something real," said Chris Munford. "I want to be someone my son can look up to, someone who helps others believe they can change too. I finally understand that the respect I used to chase isn't given, it's earned. I'm earning mine every single day."

"I've met every requirement of this program with no sanctions, and I've learned how to show up - not just for others, but for myself. Most of all, I am proud of the person I've become. I am no longer ashamed of my past, because it led me to where I am now," said Brett Kelly.

Turning Point Trends

Community Partner Spotlight - 2nd Act

2nd Act Org, Inc. is a nonprofit with offices in Boston, MA, Providence, RI, and Cleveland, OH. 2nd Act utilizes theatre, film and drama therapy to address the impact of substance use. They build diverse and inclusive communities to promote understanding in the face of stigma. 2nd Act includes people in recovery at every level of the organization to ensure that their voices are honored and the needs of the recovery community are central to their work. 2nd Act was founded in 1984 and has been a mainstay of substance use prevention education in Greater Boston for the last 40 years and Greater Cleveland for the last 6 years.

Co-Active Therapeutic Theater Model (CoATT) is a manualized drama therapy technique designed specifically to aid in the transition from intensive therapeutic environments into independent recovery from Substance Use Disorder or other related behavioral health disorders. At its core, drama therapy uses the processes and rituals of theatre to support mental health, help patients gain insight into past traumas and current challenges



Pictured from left to right, Ryan Knapp, Cassey Fye and David Ferrell



Legacy Letter

If recovery wrote you a letter today, what would it say?

Participants wrote short messages from the perspective of "recovery" and added it to the board.



A Graduation tradition

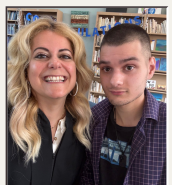
Daily Dose of Joy

For me, one heartwarming thing that can come from a Turning Point graduation is a newfound and lasting friendship with a prior participant.



While someone is in Turning Point, I am the leader of our Treatment Team. My job is to monitor progress, ensure compliance, motivate, encourage, and balance accountability with treatment and supervision. After graduation, my role changes. I am no longer that participant's "judge" and I'm permitted to get to know them and their families, and foster a real friendship.

Enter Shannon Kearns - 2018 Turning Point graduate. Shannon has nine years of sobriety this year and is a wonderful mom, peer supporter and community leader. She is on our Turning Point Advisory Board and we affectionately refer to each other as "bestie." I'm so happy for her and the life she's created and proud to now call her a friend. Here's a pic from our last dinner at my house, in our sweats, just making time as busy moms. This month, it's my hope that all our graduates enjoy the thriving long term sobriety Shannon has.



Let's Connect on Socials



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