

Transforming Lives, Strengthening Communities

Turning Point Times- March 2025



March 2025 Turning Point graduates. Pictured from left to right, Sone Rassavong, Michael Farmer, Dustin Balthis, Sean Ahern, Ashley Mears, Melissa Sipe, Judge Oldfield, Kimberly Cassidy, Neil Keyes, and Tracy Affolter,

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

"This program offered a lifeline, a beacon of hope in the midst of the darkness," said Sone Rassavong, "The support I received from the dedicated staff was invaluable. They provided me with the tools and resources I needed to begin my journey towards recovery."

"Today, I have a home and my family back. My children look up to me, my girlfriend is now my fiancé, and we are getting married next year, and my mom and dad are proud of me now. Most importantly, I am proud of myself for accomplishing this stuff that I knew I could do," said Michael Farmer.

"I never thought that being arrested would be the best thing that ever happened to me," said Dustin Balthis. "I was able to get my CDL and obtained a good job. I have repaired my relationship with my family, and have earned back their trust. I am finally happy with the life that I have today."

"Today I know what I have to do to stay sober and clean from everything. My oldest and youngest sons are very proud of me. I've decided to live my life now with sober friends," said Sean Ahern.

"It felt impossible. I finally got caught, went to jail, and was sent to IBH, where I completely changed my life. I made sober friends, and had people who supported me," said Ashley Mears.

"Today, I have a great life. I have a great job, and I have earned back the love and respect of my family, friends, and peers. I have a home group, a sponsor, and attend church regularly. All that was made possible by the loving and dedicated people at Turning Point and IBH," said Melissa Sipe.

"To everyone who has impacted my life in this program. I would not be here without every single one of you. I pray blessings upon Judge Oldfield and the Turning Point Program. May you all be blessed beyond measure," said Kimberly Cassidy.

"Because of this program I will be able to further my education and reach my ambitious career goals," said Neil Keyes. "I will continue to work on personal and professional relationships and make myself available to the next addict who still suffers from the hopeless state of mind."

"It's been a hard journey but I'm so grateful for Turning Point and my recovery," said Tracy Affolter. "It has given me my life back. Addiction took a lot from me but I have worked so hard to get it all back."



Turning Point Trends

TEAM MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: SNUD (STREET NARCOTIC UNIFORM DETAIL)
DETECTIVE KYLE SHAFFER AND DETECTIVE JEFFREY WOOLLEY





Detective Kyle Shaffer is a graduate of Garfield High School. He attended Cleveland State University where he played baseball and earned a bachelor's degree in criminology. He joined the Akron Police Department in 2014 and became a member of the SNUD unit in 2020. In 2022. Detective Shaffer became a

K9 handler for the unit. His canine is a golden retriever named Red. Detective Shaffer's favorite part about the SNUD unit is that every day is different! From conducting investigations as a unit or assisting the several other agencies in the Anti-Violence Bureau, every day is exciting. Detective Shaffer says "since day one at the Akron Police Department I knew that I wanted to be a part of the SNUD unit. He said he wanted to work in the best unit, alongside some of the best officers in the department, to help get illegal drugs and guns off the street and make the city a safer place. Detective Shaffer decided to get involved with the Turning Point Program because he thought it was a great opportunity to be part of a program that's truly making a difference in people's lives and helping them overcome addiction.

Detective Jeffrey Woolley grew up in Wayne County. He played football and baseball throughout high school. He joined the Ohio Army National Guard and became a combat engineer (think blowing things up not building them). He has two overseas deployments, one to Iraq and one to Egypt. After 21 years of service with the Army National Guard he will



retire this May. Detective Woolley has worked for the Akron Police Department for 17 years, with his first 12.5 years in patrol before getting the opportunity to join the SNUD Unit. Woolley knew from the beginning that SNUD was where he wanted to work. The unit is a small tight knit group that primarily does proactive policing, and he says are tasked with going after "the worst of the worst". His favorite part about the SNUD unit is how many different agencies and tasks they get to help out with. Each day is a new adventure! Detective Wooley tells people he became a part of the Turning Point Program by accident. Detective Al Jones approached him prior to retiring and asked Woolley if he would be interested. He didn't know much about the program but knew Detective Jones enjoyed it and believed in it, and he didn't want to let Jones down. Now, Woolley says being part of this program has been a breathe of fresh air for his policing career after seeing the courage and humility that is displayed by the participants every day, that leads to life transformations.

A graduation Tradition























Daily Dose of Joy

Please welcome us in congratulating Judge Joy Malek Oldfield as she

has been appointed to a three-year renewable term as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Ohio Supreme Court's Judicial College. The Board of Trustees of the Judicial College advises the Ohio Supreme Court on judicial branch education and the Judicial College's operations. Of the over 700 active judges in Ohio, the Judicial College Board consists of only nine judges (seven from across the various judicial associations, two appointed by the Chief Justice), and one magistrate. Judge Oldfield is the appointed judge through the Ohio Common Pleas Judges Association for which she serves as Second Vice-President and Education Chair. As a Board member for the Judicial College, Judge Oldfield, in cooperation with the Ohio Judicial Conference, will work with other Board members to provide a comprehensive program of continuing education for judges, acting judges, magistrates, and court personnel of the state, as well as to create standards and curricula for those education and training programs.

"I'm honored to serve in this role," said Judge Oldfield. "I work very hard to stay current on practical, legal, and ethical information I and my fellow judges need to serve the public. We have such quality education for our Ohio judiciary, and I hope to add value through this work."

Let's Connect on Socials



@SummitcountyTPP



@Summit County Turning Point Program