

# TURNING POINT

Transforming Lives, Strengthening Communities

Presiding Judge Joy Malek Oldfield

## Turning Point Times

October 2025



### October Plenary Session at the Akron- Canton Regional Foodbank

The Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank was formed in 1982 by a group of community leaders who made a commitment to provide emergency food to neighbors in need. Today, the Foodbank provides food and other essential items to hunger-relief partners within its network, serving eight Northeast Ohio counties. On October 7, 2025, Turning Point participants and staff helped provide 5,750 meals for our neighbors in need.

*Feed People. Fight Hunger.*



AKRON-CANTON REGIONAL  
**FOODBANK**



Let's Connect on Socials



@SummitcountyTPP



@Summit County Turning Point Program



# SOBERTOBER

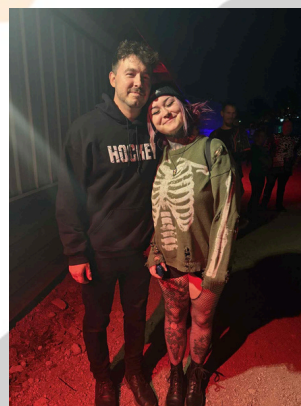
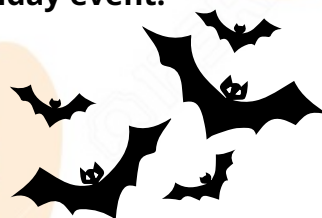


Instead of a traditional holiday party revolving around alcohol and illicit drugs, we created a Turning Point tradition, Sobertober. Staying sober during the holidays requires planning, support and self-awareness to navigate social situations and emotional triggers effectively. The Turning Point team helps participants navigate the holidays by creating a plan to protect their sobriety.

This year, the Turning Point Team put together a Creepy Kahoot to play in court because yes, recovery can sometimes be scary! Each participant also received breakfast and a Boo Bag, no tricks, just treats, for being SPOOK-tacular!

## TIPS TO A SOBERTOBER:

- Attend a 12- step meeting beforehand or invite a sober friend to attend the holiday event.
- Make plans to meet your sponsor or talk on the phone.
- Find your own transportation or ride with someone in your support system.
- Limit your time around stressful situations and difficult people.
- Prepare to politely refuse drugs or alcohol.
- Have an escape plan in place.



## SOBRIETY IS SO SWEET IT'S SCARY

On Saturday night, October 18, The Turning Point Alumni Group faced their fears at the Carnival of Horrors for a night full of frights, laughter, and connection! It was not just about the haunted house, it was about facing fears together, celebrating growth, and making new memories with friends who've walked the same path. What made it even more special? Experiencing all the thrills sober and present, proving that joy, friendship, and excitement don't need substances to shine. From screams to smiles, it was a reminder that recovery can be full of spooky beginnings and beautiful endings. Thank you to the OneOhio Recovery Foundation for making this possible.



# 2025 Turning Point Advisory Board

The Turning Point Advisory Board was developed in 2013, to support the effective operations of the Turning Point Program and assist in its certification before the Supreme Court of Ohio. This multidisciplinary team consists of key officials throughout the treatment and criminal justice system, as well as critical community stakeholders who collaborate and support the work of the Turning Point Program.



The 2025 Turning Point Advisory Board convened on October 29, 2025, to review current program operations, discuss proposed changes, and gather feedback on improving the participant outcomes and program efficiency.

The Turning Point team would like to extend our sincere gratitude to all Advisory Board members. We deeply appreciate your time, commitment and partnership. Together, we are making a difference in the lives of our participants and our community.

Ms. Kerri Defibaugh, Director of Offender Services SCCC  
Mr. Keith Hochadel, Chief Executive Officer-Community Health Center  
Ms. Lori Lawrence, Vice President Correctional Programs/Summit County Oriana House, Inc  
Mr. Elliott Kolkovich, Summit County Prosecutor  
Mr. Brian Bidlingmyer, Chief Development Officer-YMCA  
Dr. James Orlando, President-Summit Psychological Associates  
Ms. Aimee Wade, Executive Director-ADM Board  
Mr. John Ellis, Professor-University of Akron School of Social Work and Family Sciences  
Ms. Cassandra Holtzmann, Executive Director Summit County Children's Services  
Sheriff Kandy Fatheree, Summit County Sheriff  
Travis & Shelly Bornstein, Founders of Hope United

Ms. Annie McFadden, United Way Summit/Medina Chief of Staff, Impact and Communications  
Rev. Reba McCray, President-ARC Recovery Services  
Mr. Marc Lee Shannon, Turning Point Volunteer  
Ms. Dawn Distler, CEO-Metro RTA  
Ms. Shannon Kearns, Turning Point Alumni  
Mr. Ben Rich, Turing Point Alumni Coordinator  
Ms. Emily Myers, Vocational Rehabilitation Supervisor-Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities  
Ms. L. Mialon Morris, Turning Point Program Defense Counsel  
Ms. Meredith Myers, Chief Clinical Officer-IBH Addiction Recovery  
Mr. Brian Harding, Chief-Akron Police Department  
Lieutenant Todd Sinsley, Akron Police Department  
Sergeant Jeff Woolley, Akron Police Department  
Ms. Andrea Whitaker, Summit Legal Defenders

## Daily Dose of Joy



On October 9, 2025, I was honored to receive the Dr. Robert "Bob" Smith Innovation Trailblazer Award at the County of Summit ADM Board awards dinner. The Dr. "Bob" Smith Innovation Trailblazer Award recognizes individuals who stand out for their creativity and innovation when treating and serving those with a substance use disorder. This awards dinner was especially meaningful when the children and grandchildren of the people who work at ADM - the people behind the people - presented the award to me, with my own children standing beside me as well.

Fifteen years ago, I left the life of private practice to work in the very courthouse I'm in today. It's been the joy of my career (no pun intended) to work with people in recovery. And while I'm happy for any positive change I've helped anyone make - the gratitude is actually mine. I've benefited from the lessons I've learned watching people work on change in their own lives, in my Summit County Turning Point Program and my regular docket. It's motivated me to work on myself - and I learn something new every day. I hope to keep adding value to the lives of those who appear before me.