



Transforming Lives, Strengthening Communities

Presiding Judge Joy Malek Oldfield

Turning Point Times

November 2025



November Plenary Session at the Akron-Summit County Public Library

In January 1874, the Akron City Council passed an ordinance establishing a free public library for the community. Shortly after, on February 27, 1874, the Board of Trustees of the newly formed Akron Public Library met for the first time, with John R. Buchtel serving as its inaugural Board President. The Akron Public Library officially opened its doors to the public on March 1, 1874. Today, anyone living, working, or attending school in Ohio is eligible to register for a FREE Akron-Summit County Public Library card.



The Akron-Summit County Public Library provides resources for learning and leisure, information services, meeting spaces, and programs for all ages that support, improve, and enrich individual, family, and community life.

*"Live a life worth reading about.
Then write it." - Chris Campanioni*



Turning Point Trends

Community Corner



The Turning Point Program participated in the St. Vincent-St. Mary High School career fair for the third year in a row! Students tested their recovery knowledge by answering a question before playing Plinko for prizes.



Turning Point staff also participated in the Summit County Citizens Academy, held by Summit County Prosecutor Elliot Kolkovich, where we had the pleasure of informing citizens on what our program does and how we can help the community around them.

"The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members."

— Coretta Scott King

METRO Regional Transit Authority

In order to help others navigate obstacles, we first have to understand their experiences. Many of our Turning Point participants rely on public transportation, so on November 25, 2025, our team spent the afternoon riding the Akron METRO to some of the common locations our participants travel to. We even made a few bus transfers to better learn the routes and understand what it's like to rely on public transportation every day. We gained valuable insight into what it takes to get around when you don't have the blessing of your own car. Thank you, Akron METRO, for helping us navigate the route and deepen our understanding.



Turning Point Gratitude Wall

On the journey of recovery, gratitude emerges as a powerful tool that not only supports sobriety but also fosters a positive outlook and emotional resilience. One helpful framework for understanding gratitude is the Four A's: appreciation, approval, admiration, and attention. Incorporating these into daily life can enhance overall well-being, strengthen resilience, and empower individuals to stay focused on the positives.

Appreciation: Recognizing and valuing the positive aspects of our lives—no matter how small—helps shift our mindset toward hope and possibility.

Approval: Affirming your own worth, and acknowledging the worth of others, creates a supportive and uplifting environment essential for healing.

Admiration: Noticing and celebrating the qualities and achievements of others strengthens relationships and nurtures meaningful connections.

Attention: Being fully present with the people and moments around us allows for deeper connection. This mindfulness invites gratitude into everyday interactions.

By practicing the Four A's, individuals in recovery can build emotional strength, cultivate healthier relationships, and maintain a more grounded and optimistic outlook.



Turning Point Trends

Drama Therapy

2nd Act is a collective of artists in recovery who use theatre, film, and drama therapy to explore the impact of substance use. Together, they empower diverse and inclusive communities by fostering understanding in the face of stigma.

On November 26, 2025, during the specialized docket meeting, 2nd Act performed one of their signature Prevention Plays. Their Short Scenes are unconnected short performances inspired by the lived experiences of members of the 2nd Act community.

We were especially proud to see one of the performers—our very own Turning Point alumni, Timothy Henry take the stage!



The Daily Dose of Joy- falling in Love Edition



By the time this edition of Turning Point Times reaches your inbox, we will all have gathered with our families around the dinner table and shared what we are most thankful for this year. As I reflected on my own gratitude, my mind went back to a moment just a few weeks ago—a truly special first-of-its-kind experience for me. I had the honor of officiating the wedding of one of our remarkable Turning Point graduates, Mr. Timothy Henry.

He and his lovely bride exchanged their vows and reminded us all that not only can a life heal, but that beautiful things can grow when you're willing to open your heart. I wish them countless years filled with joy, laughter, and love.

Judge Joy Malek Oldfield

Let's Connect on Socials



@SummitcountyTPP



@Summit County Turning Point Program

Turning Point Alumni News



On Veterans Day, the Turning Point Alumni had the privilege of visiting Valor Court to share a small gesture of gratitude: fresh donuts for the men and women who have served our country.

While a donut may seem simple, our hope was that it brought a moment of

comfort and connection to those who have given so much. The Veterans Treatment Court community works incredibly hard—participants, mentors, and staff alike—and their dedication deserves recognition every day, not just today.

Thank you to all our veterans for your courage, sacrifice, and service. We're honored to stand with you, support you, and celebrate you.

