



Transforming Lives, Strengthening Communities

Presiding Judge Joy Malek Oldfield

Turning Point Times

July–September 2026



Music, Wellness, and Recovery Take Center Stage at Turning Point

On July 7, 2026, Turning Point participants enjoyed an inspiring and uplifting experience through The Summit FM's Music + Wellness program, featuring special guest artist Marc Lee Shannon.

The interactive program combined the healing power of live music with movement and wellness activities, giving participants the opportunity to explore healthy coping strategies, practice emotional regulation, reduce stress, and strengthen meaningful connections with one another. The event was filled with energy, encouragement, and plenty of fun, demonstrating how creative experiences can support recovery and overall well-being.

We extend our sincere gratitude to The Summit FM and the County of Summit ADM Board for making this memorable program possible. Their continued partnership and commitment to supporting recovery, wellness, and hope make a lasting difference in the lives of those we serve.

Events like these remind us that healing happens in many ways—through music, connection, shared experiences, and community support. Together, we're proving that recovery can happen one song, one connection, and one step at a time.



Hooves, Hope & Healing: Turning Point Participants Discover a New Path to Recovery

This summer, Turning Point participants had the opportunity to experience recovery in a whole new way through a 6-week Equine Therapy Program at Hope Meadows. Surrounded by nature and supported by trained counselors and equine specialists, participants discovered that healing doesn't always happen within four walls—it can also happen in a pasture.

Throughout the program, participants connected with horses through hands-on activities designed to strengthen emotional wellness, build healthy coping skills, and encourage personal growth. Horses have a unique ability to respond honestly and without judgment, helping participants develop trust, improve communication, and become more aware of their emotions.

The Equine Therapy series offered more than just time with horses—it provided a meaningful opportunity for self-discovery, growth, and hope. Programs like this remind us that recovery can take many forms, and sometimes the most powerful breakthroughs begin with an unexpected connection. Here's to new paths, new possibilities, and the healing power of hope—one hoofbeat at a time.



Learning, Leading, and Inspiring- AllRise 2026

The Turning Point team had an incredible opportunity to attend the AllRise National Conference in Nashville, Tennessee, from July 20–23. The conference brought together treatment court professionals from across the country to learn, collaborate, and share innovative strategies that strengthen recovery and improve outcomes for the individuals and families we serve.

One of the highlights of the conference was seeing our very own Judge Joy Malek Oldfield selected as a conference presenter. Judge Oldfield shared her knowledge, experience, and passion for treatment courts with colleagues from across the nation, showcasing the impactful work being done through the Turning Point Program and in Summit County. It was a tremendous honor to see her represent our community on a national stage.

Throughout the conference, our team connected with fellow professionals, explored emerging best practices, and gained valuable insights that will help us continue to enhance the services and support we provide to participants.

We extend our sincere thanks to All Rise for hosting another exceptional conference. We returned home inspired, energized, and excited to put new ideas into action as we continue our mission of changing lives through accountability, recovery, and hope.

All Aboard for a Memorable Morning!

On August 4, 2026, Turning Point participants and staff enjoyed a special behind-the-scenes experience at the Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad.

The group received a guided tour of the railroad, learned about its rich history and mission, and got an exclusive look at the maintenance operations that keep the trains running safely. Participants also explored volunteer and employment opportunities while meeting the dedicated staff whose passion and commitment make the railroad a treasured community resource.

More than just a tour, the morning offered an opportunity to connect with one another, learn something new, and experience one of Northeast Ohio's most unique attractions. It served as a meaningful reminder that recovery is strengthened through community engagement, new experiences, and lasting connections.

A heartfelt thank you to the staff of the Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad for their warm hospitality and for providing such an informative and memorable experience. We appreciate everyone who helped make the visit a success and look forward to future opportunities to explore our community together.



Lights, Camera, Treatment Court!

On August 18, 2026, Turning Point participants traded court for movie tickets and visited The Nightlight for a special screening of Union County!

The film offers a behind-the-scenes look at treatment courts and the teamwork that supports participants through the program.

Thank you to Judge Joy Malek Oldfield, Ray Recovery, and Esther House for sponsoring this memorable outing!



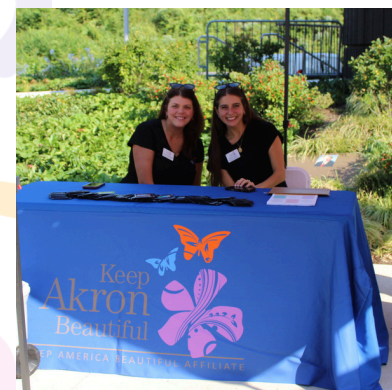
Turning Point Kicks Off National Recovery Month with Fourth Annual Community Resource Fair

Turning Point kicked off National Recovery Month in style with our Fourth Annual Community Resource Fair on Tuesday, September 1, at Lock 3 in downtown Akron and what a morning it was!

More than 70 local organizations, treatment providers, and community partners came together to share resources, make connections, and remind our community that support is always within reach.

From recovery services and treatment options to programs focused on stability and overall well-being, there was something for everyone. But this event was about more than handing out brochures and business cards. It was a celebration! Attendees had the chance to, enjoy music from a live DJ, snap a photo with Zippy, cool down with a sweet treat from Kona Ice and connect with others and celebrate the power of recovery.

Turning Point is incredibly grateful to Oriana House and the City of Akron for co-sponsoring this year's event, and to every community partner who showed up, shared their resources, and helped make our Fourth Annual Resource Fair our biggest success yet!



Clash of the Courts: Round Two!

On September 18, 2026, Turning Point alumni and active participants returned to the field for the second annual Clash of the Courts and this year, the competition was fierce!

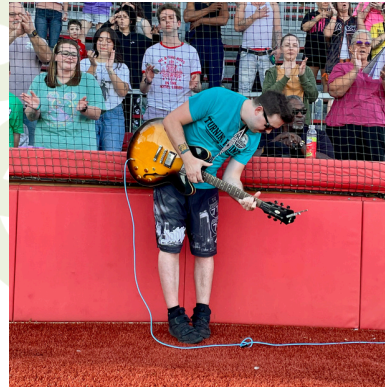
Judge Joy Malex Oldfield's Turning Point Program went head-to-head with Judge Baker Ross and her Valor Court in a friendly showdown under the lights at Firestone Stadium. There was plenty of team spirit, plenty of laughs, and just enough healthy competition to keep everyone on their toes!

A special shout-out to Turning Point alumnus Matthew Hunsucker for an absolutely amazing performance of the "Star-Spangled Banner." Matthew helped kick off the evening in true all-American style and set the tone for a night full of fun, friendship, and friendly competition!

But when the dust settled, there could only be one champion, and Turning Point took home the infamous JADFA Trophy!

And, naturally, the trophy has been given the place of honor it deserves—proudly displayed on Judge Oldfield's bench, right where it belongs.

Congratulations to both teams for making the second annual Clash of the Courts one to remember!



Turning Point September Graduation Celebration



Taive Hazard- Some of my goals are to continue growing as a person and, take every day one day at a time, maintain financial stability, start my own business one day, and meet more likeminded people.

Cody Mihal- With the help of the Turning Point team, I'll have a year and half drug free. I am happily employed, have my motorcycle license, and 2 new motorcycles. But most importantly, I have my sobriety and my family.

Megan Blondheim - Moving forward, my goals are to continue my recovery, be the best mother I can be, maintain healthy relationships, build financial stability, and continue making choices that lead to a positive future.

Charles Hull- My mission is simple but powerful: to remain committed to my recovery, continue growing as a student and future welder, live with honesty and integrity, rebuild trust with my actions, and never forget where I came from. I will continue choosing recovery one day at a time, knowing that every positive decision brings me closer to the life. I have worked so hard to achieve.

Jerry Frasier- I am dedicated to using my story to inspire those who feel hopeless, to honor the program and mentors who saved my life, and to show anyone still sitting in the darkness of addiction what a beautiful, honorable, and successful life is.

Lyndi Moore- I am now providing hope for others. I have 13 months clear headed and have allowed myself to heal from the inside out. I get to help others who have no one and nothing by paying it forward to them as it was given so freely to me.

Phillip Jones- I have gained the tools and skills to be able to cope with everyday life. Most importantly, I have peace and hope in my life.

Eric Cramer- Recovery taught me that every day is a chance to choose a better path. Sobriety didn't just save my life; it gave me a reason to truly live it.

Michael Dugger- I want to thank the people, places, and things that helped me through all the challenges that let me see the bigger picture because my life has meaning. Today, I am reliable, responsible, and accountable with purpose.

Jodi Riggs- My mission is to continue living a life of honesty, accountability, and sobriety. I will continue to use the tools I have learned to remain substance free, contribute positively to my community, and build a stable, responsible, and fulfilling future.

Judge Joy Malek Oldfield honored with Community Impact Award

Turning Point's own Judge Joy Malek Oldfield was honored with the 2026 Community Impact Award from Keep Akron Beautiful during this year's Green the Scene fundraiser. The annual event also commemorated 45 years of Keep Akron Beautiful's service to the Akron community.



As the presiding judge of Turning Point, Judge Oldfield has championed a rehabilitation-focused approach grounded in accountability, recovery, and meaningful community engagement.

For the past five years, Turning Point participants and court staff have joined volunteers from the Summit County Prosecutor's Office, Akron Police Department, Summit Legal Defenders, Summit County Sheriff's Office, and Keep Akron Beautiful to restore parks, remove litter, and beautify neighborhoods throughout Akron.

The annual cleanup has become a powerful example of restorative justice in action, demonstrating how service to others can play an important role in personal recovery. Throughout the year, Turning Point participants also support Keep Akron Beautiful by completing service projects across the city.

Judge Oldfield's partnership with Keep Akron Beautiful demonstrates what can be accomplished when accountability, service, and community come together.



Congratulations to Judge Oldfield on this well-deserved recognition.

Celebrating Recovery & Second Chances

On September 22, 2026, Judge Joy Malek Oldfield hosted a brown bag luncheon for court employees in celebration of National Recovery Month.

The luncheon brought together colleagues for an afternoon of connection, encouragement, and celebration. Attendees enjoyed an exhilarating game of Kahoot, with three lucky winners taking home Turning Point tumblers and a Dr. Labor book!

Employees also took time to write letters of encouragement to active participants in the Turning Point Program, offering words of support and hope to those on their recovery journeys.

A special highlight was hearing from retired Cuyahoga County Judge Bill McGinty, who shared insights drawn from his lifetime of work in recovery and his experiences supporting individuals and families along the way.



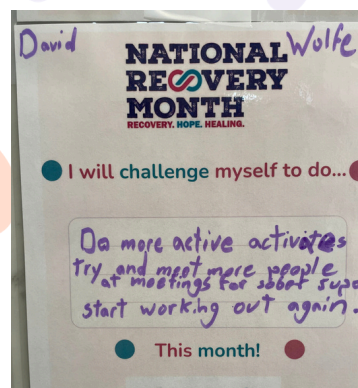
Turning Goals into Hope

In honor of National Recovery Month, Turning Point participants created a Recovery Wall! A place to share their goals, hopes, and commitments for the month of September.

Judge Joy Malek Oldfield challenged participants to set a goal and push themselves to take a step toward achieving it.

Each goal represents a commitment to growth, connection, and a brighter future.

Big goals. Small steps. A whole lot of hope. That's Turning Point!



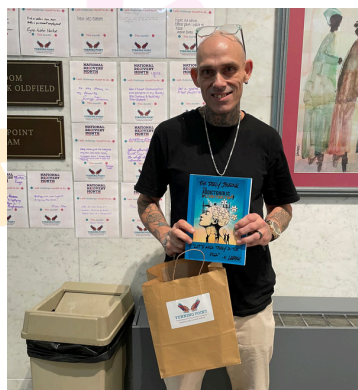
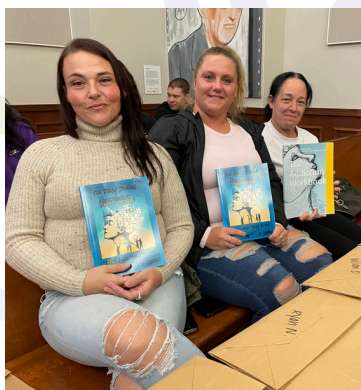
Recovery, Hope and Community

As National Recovery Month comes to a close, our commitment to supporting recovery continues. Each Turning Point participant received a journal by Dr. Nicole Labor, known as the "Addiction Assassin," along with personal messages of hope and encouragement from employees of the Summit County Court of Common Pleas.

These thoughtful messages serve as an important reminder that our participants are not walking this journey alone. They have an entire community cheering them on, believing in their potential, and reminding them that change is possible.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to share words of kindness, encouragement, and hope.

Your support makes a difference and helps remind those in recovery that they are seen, valued, and supported every step of the way.



The Daily Dose of Joy

I've spent time this year on the campaign trail. And the daily grind has really caused me to stop and reflect on the similarities between this moment in my life, and the journey my participants travel in recovery. Don't get me wrong - I know that everything they do is way harder than anything I am doing. And I'm always inspired. But I think for both, we start out with this vision, right? Where are we going? What do we want to accomplish? Some days are encouraging. Other times you feel like quitting. But I know I don't get to skip the hard days. And neither do you if you're working to change your life. That effort my participants put in encourages me in every goal I set for myself.



I remind myself of the things I remind my participants. I can't control everything around me. I can only control my attitude, my discipline, my choices. And keep moving forward - one day at a time. Here's to everyone working towards any goal or healthy change. You got this!

Judge Joy Malek Oldfield

Let's Connect on Socials



@SummitcountyTPP



@Summit County Turning Point Program