



TURNING POINTE

A U T I S M F O U N D A T I O N

Compassionately Empowering Individuals, Families and Communities

SPRING 2011

Turning Point Autism Foundation

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Turning Pointe Community Autism Day School Opens!

After months of hard work by our Board of Directors, dedicated staff and consultants, Turning Pointe Autism Foundation is pleased to announce the opening of our Therapeutic Day School for the winter semester 2011.

The new school is an interim campus until the main building is complete, and includes a main classroom, computer lab, tutoring room, sensory room, life skills kitchen, life skills bedroom, speech therapy room, staff offices and a leisure area for after school and evening social programs.

The goal is to enhance the quality of life of all students by maximizing independence and supporting community integration through curriculum.



“Our program is entirely individual based and focuses on developing fundamental behavior regulation strategies, communication methods, life skills and social skills,” says Sonia Dickson-Bracks, Turning Pointe’s Program Director.

Our intensive program allows for a 1:1 paraprofessional support staff member to provide the maximum level of assistance needed for a student to succeed in a classroom with a highly qualified special education teacher and

an experienced multi-disciplinary team.

The school will use a “Life Plan” process, where each student will have a life plan that identifies key areas and goals the program need to meet to allow the student to reach their potential. The school will incorporate a vocational curriculum that will help prepare them for as much independence as possible.

We are very grateful for the generous support of Canadian National Railway Corporation, for providing the funding to make our Demonstration School possible. The school is the foundation of Turning Pointe’s initiatives which will create hope for families and meaningful futures for individuals impacted by autism.

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From Our Executive Director

Making a Difference - A National Model of Excellence

It is very exciting and rewarding to see the difference we are making and futures we are creating for our children impacted by autism. With the help of our many generous supporters, we are now putting in place the programs and initiatives that have made us an innovator and will make Turning Pointe a national resource for other communities and organizations to emulate. Thanks to the leadership, expertise and tireless effort of our Program Director Sonia Dickson-Bracks, our Director

of Speech and Communication Sharon Rosenbloom, and our outstanding staff, our Demonstration School is effectively providing the strategies needed for our students to really learn and grow, as well as access and engage in their families and communities.

Under the direction of Katie Todd, our Family Support Program has offered continuity of our program and consistency for our students by taking the strategies learned in our school and integrating

them in the home. From the outstanding results we’ve seen in the short amount of time we’ve been operating our programs, it is apparent that our hard work and unique strategies will continue to contribute to the successful futures we strive for in our children. My sincere thanks to our great staff, our organization’s leadership, and our generous supporters for your hard work and assistance in creating a program that is already being recognized by experts as an innovator and success in its field.



Drew Glassford
Executive Director

Turning Pointe's Featured Family - Creating a Future for Eion

This article was written by Chuck and Sandi Jiongco, who wanted to share the difference Turning Pointe has made for their son Eion, and for their renewed hope for a future they see as a result of our work together...



Eion is a severely impacted child who is non-verbal and has severe motor planning issues. Because of the severity of the impact of autism, Eion has difficulty mastering the simplest of skills. Eion came to Turning Pointe after it became apparent to us that the public school setting could neither provide Eion with an appropriate education nor teach him the life skills he needs to become an independent adult. Public school for Eion was a perfect storm of dysregulation and anxiety, where the impossible task of navigating the chaos of middle school met a special education program that could not appropriately serve his academic and unique needs, creating an environment where Eion was unable to learn and stay emotionally and physically regulated.

Every public school year came with changes in staff, class and rooms caused anxiety for Eion and us. Each year the same questions arose: Will the staff be able to teach him? Will the staff and Eion be able to communicate with one another? Will his classmates accept him? Will people take the time Eion needs to learn or to communicate?

At Turning Pointe, we have found a setting that can take the time to listen to Eion and teach him. Turning Pointe not only provides Eion with a rich and full curriculum, but is also teaching him those life skills so he can meet his potential. This total education provides us comfort knowing that he is being prepared for an independent adulthood.

Turning Pointe also provides the needed consistency that Eion requires to learn and a place where those annual questions no longer need to be asked. Turning Pointe is an environment where he can voice his choice and more importantly be heard. Just because Eion doesn't have a voice doesn't mean he doesn't have anything to say. Eion has a lot to say and does so more independently since becoming a student at Turning Pointe. In the few weeks Eion has been at Turning Pointe, he has started to type without the same amount of physical assistance that was once required. He is learning how to control his body and emotions so that he can be available to learn and contribute to the Turning Pointe community. Turning Pointe makes it a priority that there be consistency between the home and school.

There is constant communication between his classroom teacher, the IBIs, SLP, OT, program director, curriculum director and us. This collaboration is crucial to Eion meeting his potential and it is crucial to us as team members. We have always believed that we, as parents, are members of the team. This is something we have not felt for the past couple of years. Turning Pointe further assists us by having a family support services director to assist us in integrating the behavioral model used at school at home. In order for Eion to be successful, he needs to be consistent with regulating his body and emotions and using his skills across all settings, whether at school, at home or in the community.

We are also excited about the residential component to Turning Pointe. When completed, this community will provide Eion and others a place in the future where they can be independent. We, like other special needs parents, worry about Eion's future without us.

Since Eion has been a student at Turning Pointe, we have seen his smile return. He is calm, happy and willing to learn. He has been better able to regulate his body and emotions. It is without a doubt that the team at Turning Pointe has been the difference in Eion's life. The selfless and caring work that the Turning Pointe staff performs on a daily basis will continue to provide Eion with the knowledge, voice and skills to become an independent adult and meet the potential that we all see in him.

Demonstration School Photos



Main Classroom



Computer Stations



Sensory Room

Valentines Compassion Gala

Over 150 people attended our First Annual Valentines Compassion Gala at the Morton Arboretum on Saturday February twelfth. The wooded setting created the perfect atmosphere for our guests to learn about our mission, enjoy a great meal and dance the night away to the sounds of the Upbeat Band. We are so grateful for the generous support of our patrons and the many volunteers who made this a great evening to benefit our families!



Thank You to our Generous Donors



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Gifts of \$100,000 and above



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Turning Pointe Events

2011 Golf Events



Demonstration School Open House

May 12th 3pm to 8pm

Please join us for our Demonstration School Open House to be held Thursday May 12th from 3pm to 8pm. The event will begin with a ribbon cutting by the Naperville Mayor George Pradel at 4pm, followed by interactive tours of the school. Our staff will be on hand to answer any questions and light refreshments will be served. The school is located at 3749 Tramore Court in Naperville, which is just off of Plainfield Naperville Road north of 104th Street.

SCORE Radio Golf Outing to Benefit Turning Pointe

August 15, 2011
Seven Bridges Golf Course
Lisle, Illinois



Dan McNeil and the SCORE Sports Radio will be hosting a golf outing to benefit Turning Pointe on Monday, August 15 at Seven Bridges Golf Course. Dan has been a strong supporter of autism initiatives and we are so thankful to have Dan and the SCORE involved to help create the future of Turning Pointe!



2011 Turning Pointe Invitational Golf Outing

August 29, 2011
Edgewood Valley Country Club
LaGrange, Illinois

Join us for a great day of golf and dinner at beautiful Edgewood Valley Golf Club. This event will be held to benefit Camp Access as well as our Family Support Program, and included is a chance to win a dream trip for two to the Lexus Champions for Charity Tournament at Pebble Beach, California. For more information contact Kinsey Parker at (630)570-7938.



Turning Pointe Autism Foundation is a not-for-profit, qualified tax-exempt organization under section 501c3 of the Internal Revenue Code



www.turningpointeaf.org



Turning Pointe Autism Foundation
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