



You are my  
*Sunshine*  
2021 Annual Report



**TURNING POINTE**  
AUTISM FOUNDATION



# Mission & Purpose

Turning Pointe Autism Foundation creates opportunities and programs to educate individuals with autism through proven interventions to increase independence, encourage meaningful lifelong pursuits, and enrich the community at large.

## HIGHLIGHTS

Year at a Glance.....page 7  
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# A NOTE FROM THE

# Executive Director

Dear Friends and Teammates,

In 2021, you provided the sunshine to light our path as we journeyed under more gray pandemic skies. Thanks to you, our mission not only survived but emerged as a healthy, collaborative force more determined than ever to raise the standard of care for children and adults learning with autism. Turning Pointe's annual highlights include:

- Completing interior renovations of our school home
- Securing accreditation from the Council on Rehabilitation Facilities
- Renewed its International Board of Credentialing and Continuing Education Standards Center for Autism designation
- Receiving its fourth consecutive highest rating from Charity Navigator
- Continuing & expanding services with best-practice programming
- Collaborating with University partners to improve outcomes

*Thank you for shining your light on our mission. Together, we provided hope and help to dozens of families. **Your commitment is matched only by our students resolve.*** Witnessing their work toward independence provides us the brightest, most joyful days.

Carrie  
Provenzale



# COMPLETING OUR BUILDING

## Gianni's Story

My son Gianni started at Turning Pointe on February 9, 2021, right after they completed their final stage of interior construction... Since then, my husband and I have seen dramatic changes in his overall behavior, attitude, and personality. One thing that is different about Turning Pointe from other schools, is its dedicated staff and team members. I really feel that this team of professionals working daily with my son, has helped him improve in so many aspects of life. *Gianni is now given new opportunities and experiences daily that allow him to thrive*, and in the past, he did not get these opportunities and was very limited in what he could do.

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Now, all the activities Gianni does at Turning Pointe are very hands-on and engaging, and because of this, he can interact with others better. Turning Pointe has given my son the opportunity to learn from the best and succeed in his life. My husband and I are very grateful for what Turning Pointe has to offer for my son. Gianni attending this school was truly a blessing to my family, and his progress is seen by everyone he meets. **He has flourished in ways we always hoped for because of Turning Pointe.**

Steve and Lucia Roden

-GIANNI'S PARENTS







"GIANNI HAS FLOURISHED IN  
WAYS WE ALWAYS HOPED FOR  
BECAUSE OF TURNING POINTE"



# ADULT LEARNERS

## Working Hard

Turning Pointe continues to pilot partnerships and programs to best serve adults with autism living in the community. In the spring of 2021, through a collaboration with Parents Alliance Employment Project, **a cohort of 8 students completed skill-based employability training at Turning Pointe and transitioned into community-based internship opportunities!** In the fall, an additional 5 students began their employability training, quickly mastering skills to promote independence and success as they look to transition into future employment opportunities. Following a year of remote instruction, our Career Development Camp moved back to in-person learning with 6 learners maximizing their skills in the areas of social communication, independent living, and employability.



The Adult Day Pilot continued to employ work-eligible participants for our enterprise with Two Brothers Coffee Roasters. **Adult Day employment opportunities continue to grow as coffee sales were expanded to include packaging k-cups.** The supported employment skill-building of the Adult Day Pilot has been crucial in sustaining and expanding Turning Pointe Enterprises. We are excited to expand our number of Adult Day employees in the near future to fill the growing demand for coffee orders. The pilot struggled to keep pace with the student needs in a labor shortage for students who are not employed, despite great effort to secure CARF accreditation this year. As a pilot, it will continue to evolve as we are able to meet needs.

*Bianca Frost*, BCBA

**-PROGRAM DIRECTOR**







OVER 145,000  
*Minutes*  
OF SPEECH THERAPY  
PROVIDED TO 44  
STUDENTS



OVER 79,000  
*Minutes*  
OF OCCUPATIONAL  
THERAPY  
PROVIDED TO 44  
STUDENTS



2021  
YEAR AT A GLANCE

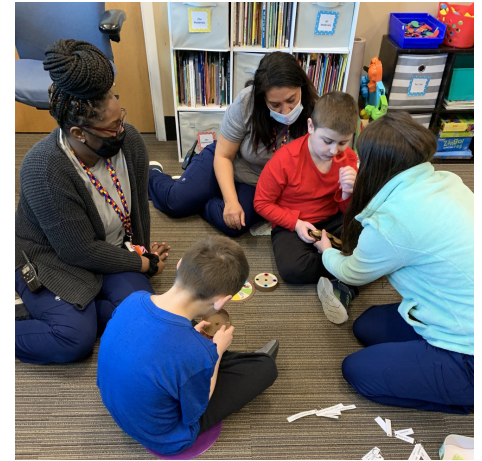


82% OF EVERY  
*Donation*  
DIRECTLY SUPPORTS  
STUDENTS AND  
FAMILIES

1,193  
*Hours Donated*  
BY OUR TEAM OF  
VOLUNTEERS



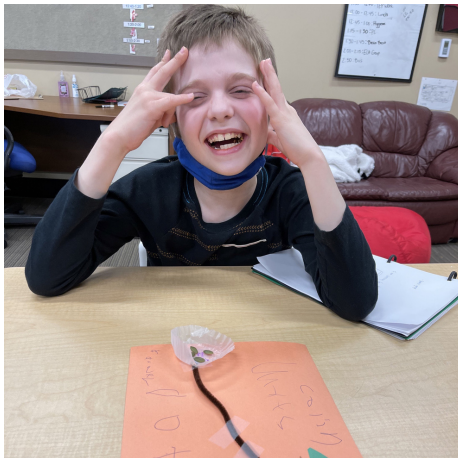
10,809 PACKS OF  
*Coffee*  
SOLD TO SUPPORT  
ADULT PROGRAMMING



OVER 50,000  
*Minutes*  
OF BEHAVIOR  
THERAPY  
PROVIDED TO 44  
STUDENTS



656 HOURS OF  
*Respite*  
PROVIDED FREE OF  
CHARGE TO FAMILIES



12 ADULT STUDENTS  
*Found Employment*  
THANKS TO OUR  
ADULT PROGRAMMING

8,500 SQ FT OF  
*Learning Space*  
FULLY REMODELED



# STAYING SAFE

## Dom's Story

My son's name is Dominic, he is 14, non-verbal, self-injurious, has a diagnosis of seizure disorder, and has autism. As Dominic grew he acquired more and more self-injurious behavior. It pained me to watch him hurt himself so severely that I almost couldn't function. *About 3.5 years ago Dominic's self-injurious behavior grew so severe that I knew the public schools could no longer keep my son safe.* That's when I found Turning Pointe. Every day I am amazed at the commitment, excitement, hope and clarity that Turning Pointe brings to both of our lives. They provide myself and my son with a safe haven and **I can finally take a breath without fear for his safety.**

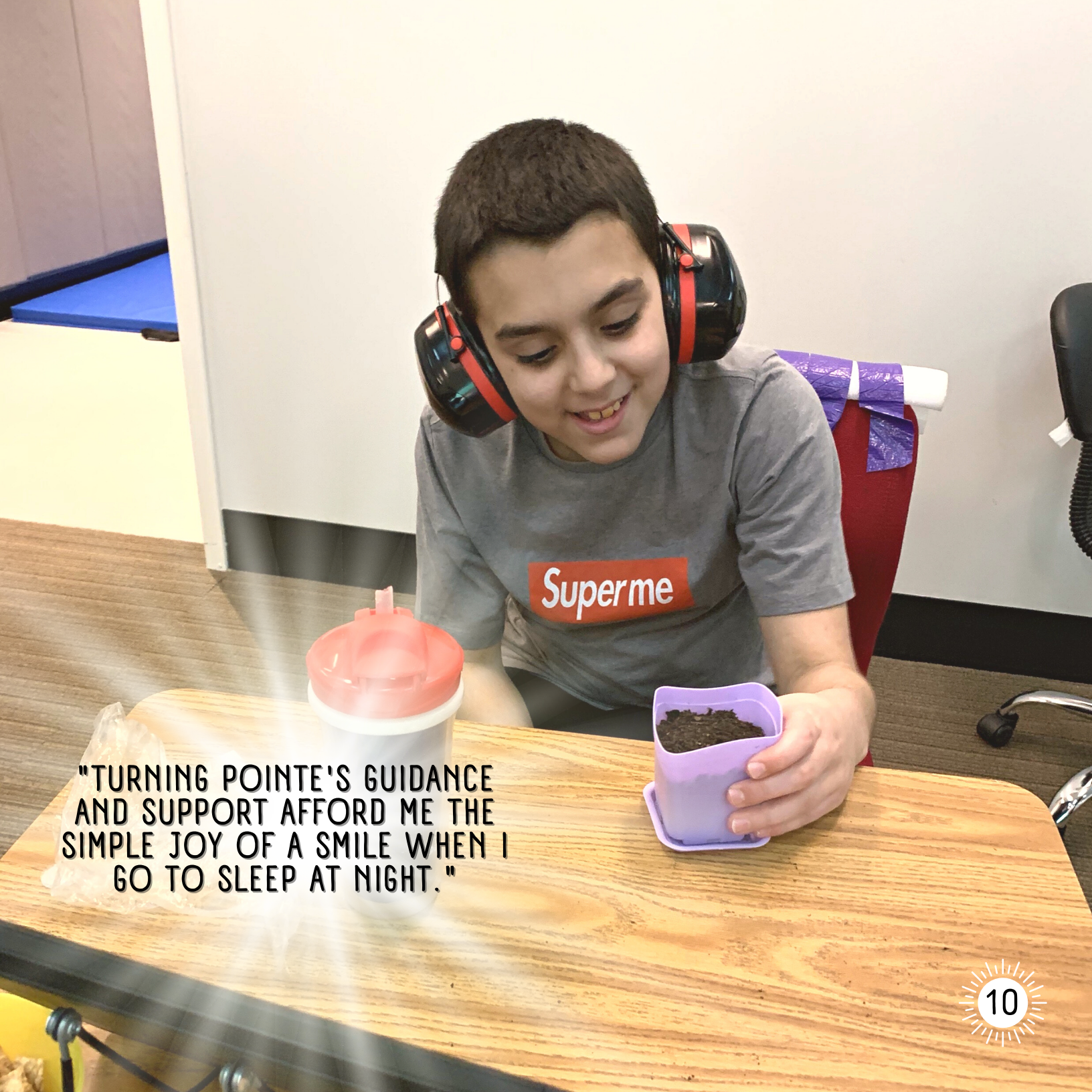
Outside of Dominic's daily school services Turning Pointe provides a free respite program to their families. It is a few hours outside of allotted school time for our children to be free, with the staff that truly loves what they do. This program is a gift to my son...fun and protection outside of our 4 walls, ***the play dates that he never got to go on.*** It is also a gift to our family, helping give me time to become a better mom to both of my children by spending one on one time with his brother. *Or even a few hours to find myself again.*

In times of hardship, which can be daily. I ask myself "What would Turning Pointe do?" They are the flashlight leading me in the darkest hours.

Czia Pizzoferrato  
-DOM'S MOM







"TURNING POINTE'S GUIDANCE  
AND SUPPORT AFFORD ME THE  
SIMPLE JOY OF A SMILE WHEN I  
GO TO SLEEP AT NIGHT."



# BOARD MEMBERS

## Executive Board

**Randy Wolf**

Board Chairman & Co-Founder  
*Partner, Dan Wolf Automotive*

**Howard Weiss**

Board President  
*President, Assured Partners of Illinois*

**Jay Ferguson**

Board Vice President  
*Partner, Ferguson Hill Wealth Management*

**Russell L. Romanelli**

Board Treasurer  
*Managing Partner, Forvis*

**Kim White**

Board Secretary  
*Executive Director, Career & Networking Center*

## Emeritus

**Gar Forman**

**Michael Feld, M.D.**



## At Large

**Steven Cataldo, MD** Duly Health Care

**Allen Caviles**, PayMaple

**Joe Chura**, Cars.com & Go Brewing

**Matt Gambs**, Wintrust

**Gene Hunziker**, Hunziker & Associates

**Lesly Marban**, Intuitive

**Theresa McClear**, Grow it Greener

**Patrick Rubald**, Office Supply Solutions

**Heather Ryan, ESQ** Heather Ryan Law

**Matthew Simpson, ESQ** Fisher Phillips

**Daniel Wolf, Jr.**, Dan Wolf Automotive

**Daniel Wolf Sr.**, Dan Wolf Automotive

**Jennifer Wheeler**, Fay Farrow & Associates

## Practive Advisory Committee

**Stephen Walker, BCBA-D**

Northern Illinois University  
*Board Member at Large*

**Dr. Timothy Vollmer**

University of Florida

**Toni Van Laarhoven, ED.D**

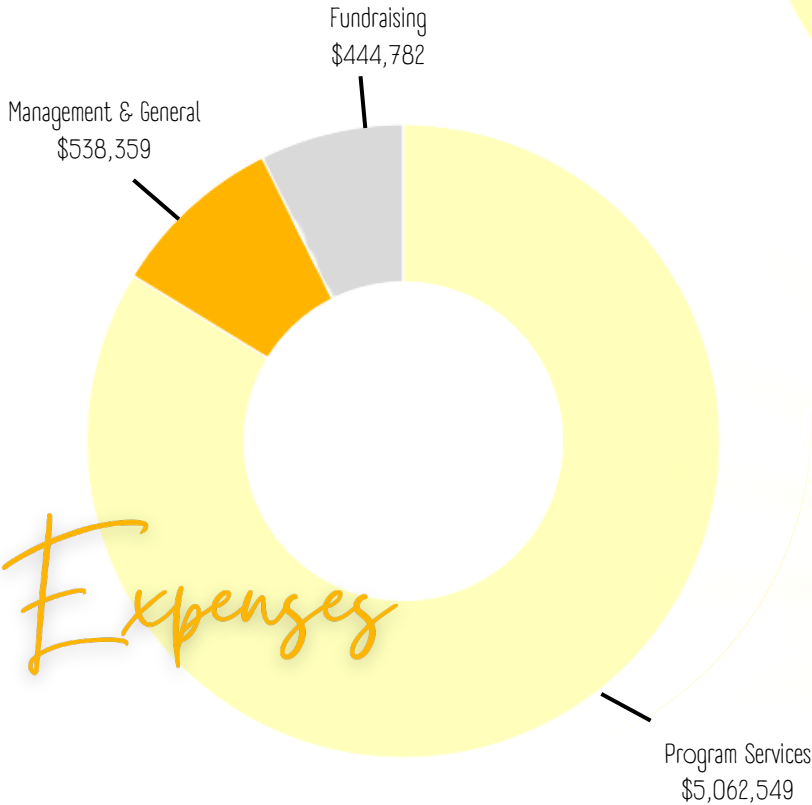
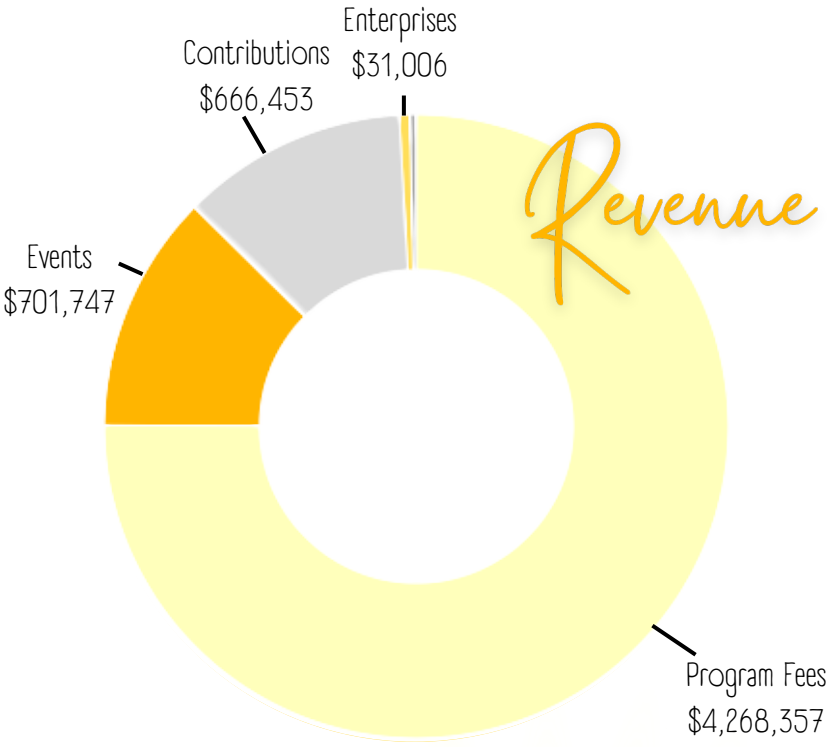
Northern Illinois University

**Jonathan K. Fernand, Ph.D., BCBA-D**

Florida Insitute of Technology



# FINANCIALS



82% OF EVERY DOLLAR IS SPENT ON STUDENT PROGRAMMING

\*FULL AUDITED FINANCIALS AT [TURNINGPOINTEAUTISMFUNDATION.ORG/ABOUT-US/](https://turningpointautismfoundation.org/about-us/)



# KEEP *Shining*

## VOLUNTEER

Sign-up to volunteer and provide life-changing resources to Individuals in YOUR community that are on a lifelong journey with Autism Spectrum Disorder. It only takes a little time to do a lot of good. See our Volunteer opportunities at [TurningPointeAutismFoundation.org/volunteer/](https://TurningPointeAutismFoundation.org/volunteer/)

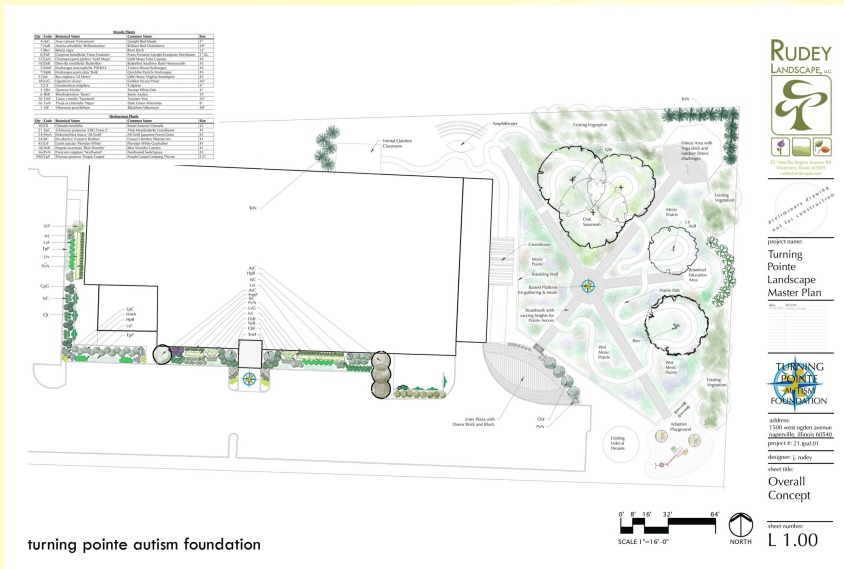


## SUPPORT STUDENT ENTERPRISES

Our students work hard. You can support them by shopping our student enterprises year-round. Browse our many products on our website at [TurningPointeAutismFoundation.org/boutique/](https://TurningPointeAutismFoundation.org/boutique/)



# ON THE Horizon



In 2021 Turning Pointe finalized the last interior buildout of our home on 1500 W Ogden by adding new specialized spaces including a tenth classroom, a clinicians' collaborative office, Occupational Therapy Gym, 'Jakes Gym', and Sensory Rooms. Upon putting the finishing touches on the inside of the building it was only natural that we began to look outward.

Our next capital project is to make the outside of our building match the best practice interior with sensory gardens, adaptive playgrounds, and outdoor learning spaces. We hope you will continue to support our mission... ***We can't do it without you.***

Donate Online at:  
[TurningPointeAutismFoundation.org/donate/](https://TurningPointeAutismFoundation.org/donate/)

Send Checks to:  
Turning Pointe Autism Foundation  
1500 W. Ogden Ave  
Naperville, IL 60540







**TURNING POINTE**  
AUTISM FOUNDATION



FIND THE FULL LIST OF TURNING POINTE'S DEVOTED TEAM AT [HTTPS://TURNINGPOINTEAUTISMFUNDATION.ORG/TPAF-STAFF/](https://turningpointeautismfoundation.org/tpaf-staff/)