

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

# **A Legacy of Impact:** Driving Real Progress in Our Community



**TURNING POINTE**  
AUTISM FOUNDATION

## OUR MISSION

### 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.



## Restoring Hope

*Turning Pointe helped repair my soul.  
With all the overwhelming challenges,  
I felt like I'd failed my child. You go  
beyond, way above the bare minimum.  
You have met and exceed a higher  
standard and I feel so honored that  
I've been able to have my daughter there.  
We need more of you.  
Turning Pointe is a blessing.*

TPAF Mom

## A LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**Turning Pointe Autism Foundation** is driving real progress for individuals with autism in our community. This year, the CN Therapeutic Day School and Foglia Family Adult Services programs grew and expanded. The mission to offer opportunities and programs that increase independence and encourage meaningful lifelong pursuits for those with autism has never been clearer.

Our innovative approach to helping students get the individualized support they need from care teams that grow with them throughout their school years sets Turning Pointe apart from other schools. As students move on to post-secondary life, we provide transition support in the adult Compass Day program.

**The impact?** Families report profound changes and growth. Hope and healing.

We are thrilled to watch our students, adult service participants, team, and families forge new paths and break new ground daily. With the generous support of our families, volunteers, donors, and community we reached new milestones, including:

- Improved mastery rates of student skills, such as functional communication, functional living, and socially appropriate behaviors
- Added a new playspot for elementary students to help with sensory breaks and social interaction skills via a major gift from the Ronald L. McDaniel Foundation
- Increased adult participation in community activities, including adult hangout groups and employment training
- Launched academic research in partnership with Northern Illinois University to study toilet training interventions and build upon current guidance
- Widened outreach, advocacy, and development with the establishment of a Women's Board

Sadly, we lost one of our greatest champions with the passing of Founder Dan Wolf, Sr. this year. His legacy and leadership guided Turning Pointe from its humble beginnings with a handful of children to the thriving school and adult services program it is today. His spirit lives on in the continued leadership of Founder Randy Wolf and the founding family.

As always, it is our phenomenal students, families, team, donors, and volunteers who make Turning Pointe Autism Foundation truly exceptional.

**Thank you for all your hard work and generosity.**

**Carrie Ann Provenzale**  
Executive Director



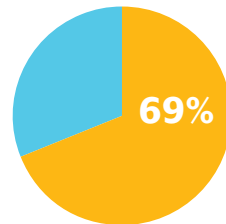
## WHO WE ARE

### Turning Pointe CN Day School

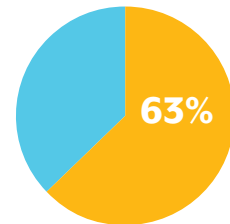
A therapeutic day school for children with autism (ages 5-22).

Students work with an interdisciplinary team that offers **intense individual attention**, appropriate educational accommodations, and **evidence-based therapeutic interventions**, including ABA, occupational, physical, and speech therapy. Fifty students attended.

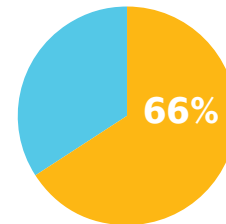
#### STUDENT SKILL MASTERY AVERAGES:



Functional Communication



Socially Appropriate Behaviors



Functional Living



### Foglia Family Adult Services

Turning Pointe's adult service programs are expanding rapidly in response to the overwhelming need for safe, supported environments for adults with autism after they age out of educational services.

The **Compass Adult Day Program** provides respite and supported employment opportunities for post-secondary students who attended Turning Pointe Day School. Compass offers comprehensive clinical support for students to boost communication, functional living, and behavioral skills. Eight adults have participated to date.

The **Employment Training Program (ETP)** for post-secondary students is designed to grow employability skills such as self-advocacy, networking, and problem-solving capabilities. Turning Pointe partners with local employers to provide hands-on training in real work and mock training settings. Ten people have participated in ETP to date.

Adult Services also hosts regular **social group hangouts** to foster real social connection. Hangouts include game and creative nights, field trips, and speaker series. Fifteen adults participated in social groups in 2023.

### Community Outreach

Turning Pointe seeks to respond to the needs of our local community. We advocate on behalf of those living with autism, raise awareness, provide community autism trainings, conduct research. Our commitment expanded this year to provide family resource navigation to anyone in the community after they receive an autism diagnosis. Turning Pointe provided outreach and support to 249 families this year.

## IN MEMORIAM



### Daniel A. "Dan" Wolf

*December 20, 1943 - June 8, 2023*

Turning Pointe Autism Foundation lost a guiding light this year with the passing of Founder Dan Wolf, Sr. Though many know Mr. Wolf for his entrepreneurial and civic accomplishments, we are forever grateful for his positive impact on children with autism in our community.

Mr. Wolf's steady spirit guided Turning Pointe in its earliest days, always reminding us to leave old models behind and focus on what it truly takes to make a real impact for each student. He encouraged us to put the child first and provide support based on what the individual actually needs.

The loss of his unwavering leadership and generosity is felt deeply. Mr. Wolf served on the Board of Directors for more than 15 years, supporting his son, Randy, in the founding of Turning Pointe and watching his grandson, Jack, graduate from Turning Pointe Day School. His legacy lives on in his sons, Randy and Dan Wolf, Jr., who continue to carry the vision and also within every student who thrives at Turning Pointe.

All community donations made in Mr. Wolf's memory will be used for future strategic planning in coordination with the founding family and Board of Directors. Mr. Wolf's legacy and drive to make a lasting impact continues to guide all we do.



# Turning Pointe in Motion



## INVESTING IN OUR FACILITIES

### Meet you at the Playspot

This year, Turning Pointe unveiled a brand-new playspot designed specifically for our youngest students. Thanks to a generous donation from the Ronald L. McDaniel Foundation, this colorful, vibrant play area is a special spot for children to enjoy sensory play breaks, such as hopscotch, and explore peer-to-peer play opportunities.

Many thanks to the McDaniel Foundation for its commitment to supporting our students' specific needs and helping them reach their optimal potential. This philanthropic relationship impacts our students daily. The Playspot is dearly loved by all.

### Making Headway on Outdoor Classroom and Garden

This year, we completed Phases I and II, removing and replacing existing landscaping around the building. We could not have accomplished so much without the generosity of volunteers and donors.

We are so grateful for generous financial donations from Nicor, the Community Foundation of Fox River Valley, the Cataldo family, and volunteers. Turning Pointe received in-kind support from Hinsdale Nursery and John Ruday, a landscape architect and parent. We also appreciate the high school Benet Buddies and Walgreens employee volunteers who tirelessly spread mulch during a long volunteer day. With these tasks complete, Phase III design work began and we started to dream of big ideas like a future greenhouse and accessible play areas. Grant solicitation is now underway.



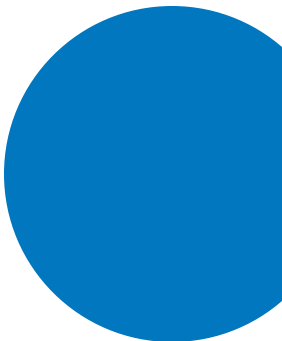
## An Education He Deserves

*Turning Pointe has been a DREAM, and our son is happy, productive, and alert to all around him. He is so at peace when he comes home each day because he is finding his purpose in a community where he feels like he belongs. In addition to getting a WORLD CLASS education, Turning Pointe supports Sebastian and our family, helping us build a bridge of learning at home.*

- TPAF Mom



## INVESTING IN OUR COMMUNITY



### Turning Pointe Autism Foundation Support and Training

Supporting students with autism is not a one-size-fits-all approach. A child with autism may have complex needs that local school officials are not properly resourced to provide and waiting lists for therapeutic school placement can be long.

Turning Pointe Support and Training was launched this year to provide much-needed education and training for teachers, staff, and social workers in local public schools. Our experts are available to share autism best practices and guidance on appropriate class environments to provide students with stronger support in their home school.

The team conducted its first training with early childhood students, educators, and providers at Michael's Journey, an annual autism awareness conference endowed by the Hart family non-profit at South Dakota State University. Participants found it extremely informative and helpful as they think about careers in special education.

Turning Pointe Support and Training is another step forward to increase visibility in the community and drive community progress by sharing knowledge and clinical expertise.

### Family Resource Navigator Hired to Support Families

In 2023, Turning Pointe hired a new team member to serve as a family resource navigator. This resource is open to any family in the community who needs support or has questions after initial diagnosis or assistance finding resources.

### Supporting Adults with Autism

The supportive scaffolding that surrounds children with autism decreases after graduation. Adults with autism and their families often struggle to find quality programs that offer social opportunities and supported activities.

Turning Pointe is stepping up to provide critical resources for adults in our community. Building on a successful employment training program (ETP), we expanded monthly adult hangouts to encourage social interaction and engagement. Hangout sessions offer fun activities, field trips, and speakers. Fifteen adults participated in 2023. Steady future growth is anticipated. Sign-up is available via the website.

### Turning Pointe, Blue Man Group Collaborate, Host Benefit Show

The Blue Man Group production team utilized Turning Pointe's expertise to re-launch their first sensory-friendly show since the pandemic. This fun collaboration resulted in a welcoming show experience for those with sensory issues. Turning Pointe provided lighting, sound, and individual accommodations guidance. Blue Man Group also performed a benefit show to support Turning Pointe's autism programming.



## INVESTING IN OUR TEAM

Turning Pointe is incredibly proud of our team members and their commitment to the highest standards of autism care.

We invest in continued education and training support, including:

- Sponsoring five team members in a Master's program at Northern Illinois University and providing three others with tuition reimbursement at other universities
- Celebrating the credentialing of seven team members as Certified Autism Specialists through IBCCES
- Hosting practicum students on-site from five universities, including New York University, Elmhurst College, and Midwestern University

We know that investing in our team members is key to our students' success, employee satisfaction, and leadership in the field. After experiencing high turnover rates at previous schools, continuity of staff in a positive environment is one of the things for which our families are most grateful. Our caring team members make all the difference to students and families.



## Turning Pointe invests in research that fuels progress in autism education and therapy.

In 2023, our research team partnered with Northern Illinois University to research one of the most essential life skills—toilet training. Led by Practice Advisory Board Member Brandon Perez, Ph.D., BCBA-D, and Program Coordinator Samantha Camacho, M.S.Ed., BCBA, with support from Program Director Bianca Frost, M.S., BCBA, and Practice Advisory Board Member Natalie Andzik, Ph.D., BCBA-D, this study focused on three Turning Pointe students to explore and refine evidence-based toilet training interventions.

Mastering toilet training fosters independence and dignity while also alleviating caregiver stress and reducing financial burdens. By prioritizing research, we empower therapists, educators, and families with effective strategies to improve quality of life for individuals with autism. Turning Pointe is proud to champion curiosity and innovation, ensuring our community remains at the forefront of autism intervention.

## INVESTING IN RESEARCH THAT MATTERS

## INVESTING IN DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH

### 2023 Golf Outing Features Golf Pro Peter Jacobsen

Turning Pointe's Summer Golf Outing fundraiser was an incredible success starting with golf pro Peter Jacobsen's generous offer of time and expertise with golf tips and advice. The seven-time PGA Tour champion and two-time PGA Champions Tour winner gave a golf clinic to attendees and offered support and praise for Turning Pointe's mission. In addition, jewelry designer Freida Rothman joined the luncheon to share her inspiring personal story of strength and resilience. Turning Pointe raised more than \$425,000 for its autism initiatives.



### New Foundation Women's Board to Advocate and Elevate Autism Outreach

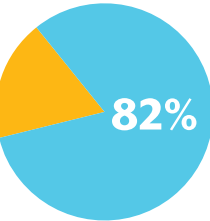
Turning Pointe launched a new Foundation Women's Board in 2023. Led by Diana Piedra and board member Heather Ryan, the board seeks to gather women passionate about making a difference in the lives of families impacted by autism. Outreach and fundraising efforts will support autism community awareness and Turning Pointe's strategic initiatives. The board's involvement in the 2023 Golf Outing made a major impact on both fundraising and attendance.



## A New Hire

*Al Cataldo, a former Turning Pointe Day School and Adult Day program student, was hired as a coffee packer/sorter for the Turning Pointe coffee enterprise program. In partnership with Two Brothers Coffee, this enterprise supplies coffee to local businesses. Al practiced for months to prepare for this new paid position. Due to his motor coordination issues, he works at a slower pace than his colleagues; however, Al's work ethic and affable personality strengthen the team's dynamics. We look forward to seeing his employment flourish.*

# Financials



of every dollar is spent on student programming.

## Assets

	2023	2022
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 2,000,680	\$ 1,008,059
Investments	625,041	593,045
Accounts receivable, net	982,452	509,889
Grants receivable and promises to give	78,591	144,244
Grant receivable, employee retention credit	–	313,856
Prepaid expenses and other assets	45,486	718
Property and equipment, net	6,064,868	6,323,015
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 9,797,118</b>	<b>\$ 8,892,826</b>

## Liabilities and Net Assets

<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 275,704	\$ 277,898
Note payable	1,382,448	1,451,605
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>1,658,152</b>	<b>1,729,503</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
Without donor restrictions	8,103,966	7,063,323
With donor restrictions	35,000	100,000
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	<b>8,138,966</b>	<b>7,163,323</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 9,797,118</b>	<b>\$ 8,892,826</b>

\*Full audited financials at: [turningpointautismfoundation.org/financials/](https://turningpointautismfoundation.org/financials/)

# 2023 Board Members

## Executive Committee

- Randy Wolf**  
Chairman and Co-founder  
Owner Dan Wolf  
Automotive Group
- Howard Weiss**  
Board President  
Regional Sales Leader at Assured  
Partners of Illinois
- Jay Ferguson**  
Vice President of Board  
Partner at Ferguson Hill  
Wealth Management
- Russ Romanelli**  
Treasurer of Board  
Partner at FORVIS
- Kim White**  
Secretary of Board  
Executive Director at Career & Networking Center

## Foundation Women’s Board

- Barb Brauer  
Terri Dieter  
Lauren DiLeonardi  
Lisa Garvy  
Andrea Karr  
Erin Krishnan  
Kinsey Parker  
Diana Piedra  
Carrie Provenzale  
Heather Ryan  
Larissa Salvato  
Jenny Shepherd  
Andrea Siracusano  
Kim Wolf  
Tammy Wolf

## Board Members

- Steven Cataldo, MD**  
**Allen Caviles**  
**Joe Chura**  
**Gene Hunziker**  
**Theresa McClear**  
**Lesly Marban**  
**Heather Ryan**  
**Matt Simpson**  
**Patrick Rubald**  
**Daniel Wolf, Jr.**  
**Daniel Wolf, Sr.**

## Practice Advisory Board

- Stephen Walker, Ph.D., BCBA-D**  
Practice Advisory Board &  
Board Member at Large  
St. Cloud University
- Timothy R. Vollmer, Ph.D., BCBA-D**  
Practice Advisory Board  
University of Florida
- Jonathan K. Fernand, Ph.D., BCBA-D**  
Practice Advisory Board  
Florida Institute of Technology



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[turningpointeautismfoundation.org](http://turningpointeautismfoundation.org)

