



*Working toward the elimination of domestic violence*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – October 28, 2008**

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**GRANT TO EXPAND ALLENTOWN POLICE OFFICER TRAINING**

Allentown, PA—Turning Point of Lehigh Valley is pleased to announce a \$20,000 grant from Verizon Foundation that will enable Turning Point to collaborate with the Lehigh County District Attorney’s Office and the Allentown Police Department to expand police training based on a model originally developed and implemented by Turning Point and the District Attorney's office. The training will be created specifically with and for the Allentown Police Department in an effort to reach police officers during roll call.

The proposed program will heighten the awareness of the needs of domestic violence victims, enhance understanding of and adherence to the domestic violence protocol, and promote victim safety. To further assist the police, a laminated pocket card, which will contain a concise summary of the domestic violence protocol as well as the contact numbers for the Senior Deputy District Attorney, the Domestic Violence Detective, and Turning Point, will be developed and distributed to all Allentown police officers.

During a press conference held at the Lehigh County Courthouse, **Turning Point's Executive Director, Pam Russell, District Attorney Jim Martin, and Senior Deputy District Attorney Joan Reinsmith discussed their plans.**

“Verizon Foundation is helping to improve lives by stopping the cycle of domestic violence and enhancing safety for families and the community,” said Daniel J. Reavy, Director-External Affairs, Verizon Pennsylvania. “We recognize what a great collaboration this training initiative offers to the Allentown Police Department and in turn, the community.”

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