

Turnstone's 20th Board of Directors'

Gala



SAVE THE DATE

OCTOBER 8, 2020

[Turnstone.org/gala](https://turnstone.org/gala)



Turnstone

3320 NORTH CLINTON STREET
FORT WAYNE, INDIANA 46805



SUMMER
2020

EMPOWER

Creating VIRTUAL Possibilities.



Dolly's Story

When COVID-19 caused organizations across the city to close, Dolly lost all of her social outlets. As a long time widow, 82-year-old Dolly relies on church gatherings and swim classes at Turnstone to stay engaged with friends her age. About five years ago, Dolly discovered Turnstone when she visited a swim class with Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation. With a love for swimming, Dolly was excited to learn that Turnstone offered group fitness classes in their warm water therapy pool.

As someone who uses a walker, Dolly enjoys coming to Turnstone because of the accessibility of the equipment and facility. Today, she has found the same benefit to be true with Turnstone's introduction of virtual programming. Amidst the challenges of COVID-19, Dolly has remained encouraged through weekly Zoom calls with her Turnstone fitness class.

Because of continued support from donors like you, Turnstone is able to offer expertise in active living and comradery through group fitness classes led by trained fitness specialists. Our fitness specialists knew that the significance of these classes would continue to be critical during the pandemic for people like Dolly.

Dolly's fitness instructor and Turnstone staff member, Amber, said, "Clients need to maintain the work they have put in while exercising at Turnstone. If they did nothing, there could be a drastic decrease in many areas of their health. The importance of exercise, to stay healthy and independent, doesn't just go away because there is a pandemic."

Dolly has especially appreciated the weekly at-home challenges Amber issues their virtual class. One week, Dolly was prompted to get her gratitude journal back off the bookshelf and has continued to use it even after the challenge expired. Amber shared that Dolly's

“
The importance of exercise, to
stay healthy and independent,
doesn't go away because
there is a pandemic.

”
-Dolly
journey has been evident through
her consistent attendance on Zoom
and dedication to seizing each
challenge. She also claimed that all
of her group fitness participants have

shown tremendous adaptability in
transitioning to an online platform.
Dolly will admit that clicking on the
Zoom link was easier than she
anticipated! Thanks to continued
gifts to Turnstone, the closure of the
building has not stopped clients from
pursuing their goals. Donor-
supported Virtual Turnstone
programming has allowed people
like Dolly continued access to
Turnstone's resources and staff from
the safety of their home.

Although she is staying at home,
Dolly has not allowed the COVID-19
crisis to slow her down. She has
loved seeing her friends through the
computer and the encouragement
in staying connected virtually, but is
anxious to get back in the pool – and
like many of us, back to her normal
routine. 🌻

For the last three years, Sebastian has anticipated the days he can come into Turnstone to play Connect Four during his therapy appointments. Spending time with his speech therapist is more than just hard work, it's been a lot of fun and games too.

When COVID-19 caused buildings to shut their doors, Sebastian was disappointed to lose his routine and leave school. However, a bright spot in his days remained – speech therapy. Because of donor-supported Virtual Turnstone operations, each week during Indiana's stay at home order, Sebastian still had his games to look forward to as he sat in front of the computer in his home and logged on to telemedicine therapy.

Sebastian's stepmom shares that the support their family receives through Turnstone hasn't been altered because of the pandemic. Instead, thanks to continued support from donors like you throughout the community, Turnstone's Social Services team has provided the family with vital resources and Sebastian's therapy appointments have continued virtually.

Since the family moved to Fort Wayne and began coming to Turnstone, the Social Services team has connected them with community food vouchers, furniture for their home, and a weighted sensory vest for Sebastian. Last year, Turnstone supporters gave Sebastian and his family the possibility to have a Christmas.

"Turnstone donors need to continue what they are doing because Turnstone is a great place that has helped our family and helps so many others," says Sebastian's stepmom.

Over the course of the recent unprecedented pandemic events, the Turnstone Social Services department has continued to check in with and communicate with clients. Social workers have been calling Turnstone families on a regular basis to ensure their needs are being met while at home, staying busier than ever.

Turnstone Social Worker, Jessica, said, "Clients know they can come to the Social Services team with questions and if we don't know the answer they know we will help them find it or refer them to someone who does."

Because of your support of Turnstone, Jessica has been able to continue ensuring the needs of families like Sebastian's are being met. In addition, his telemedicine therapy appointments have allowed routine in his life despite the chaos,

and have brought joy and laughter to his days at home.

Now that summer is here, Sebastian is eager to get outside to play with bubbles and get in the pool. But he still awaits the day the splash pad down the street from his house will be allowed to re-open.

And in the meantime, your gifts continue to create possibilities and joy for Sebastian through the services provided by Turnstone social workers and therapists. 🌻



— “ —

Turnstone donors need to continue what they are doing because Turnstone is a great place that has helped our family and helps so many others.

-Sebastian's Step Mom

— ” —

Memorials & Honorariums

IN HONOR OF:

Edward Snyder
Turnstone Staff
Molly Cink
Owen Donahue
Kenna Davis
Adrianne & Troy Lyon
Tina Acosta
Emilee Stemmler
Mike & Becky
Mushett
McKenzie Weaver
Mr. & Mrs. Richard B.
Sturges
Kevin Hughes
Adrianne Lyon
Rena Shown
Autism Awareness
Month

IN MEMORY OF:

Norman Newman
Paula Parrott
Alissa Hobbs
Arthur Thomas
Bill Boylen

JoAnn Herbst &
Tanya Sparks
Norman Rockwell
Anna Rockwell
David Bobilya
Karen Tyner
Linda "Meg"
Bierbaum
Carol Glass
Cathy Fitzgerald
Ellie
Daniel Priestap
Timothy E Shields
Dorothy McGary
Rick Olson
Sarah Bultemeier
Joseph McCarthy
Tom Roy
Donald Polley
Louis Chergotis
Barbara & Donald
Eckrich
Pat & Ross Ehle
Sandy & Derek Franz
Judy Rothgeb
Carlee Klotz

#ItsOurTurn



Thank you to our staff & generous supporters for helping us continue to create possibilities and provide critical support for people with disabilities during the Covid-19 pandemic through their #GivingTuesdayNOW and #ItsOurTurn gifts.

Thank you to our Annual Sponsors
for Fiscal Year 2019-20

Sweetwater
Music Instruments & Pro Audio

 **PARKVIEW**
HEALTH

 **PARKVIEW**
PHYSICIANS GROUP

 **PARKVIEW**
SPORTS MEDICINE

 **Pro Resources**
Staffing Services

 **Steel Dynamics, Inc.**

 **PHP**

Upcoming Fundraiser & Sporting Events

2020 Save the Dates:

Gala

October 8, 2020:

The sparkles and suits get brought out for Turnstone's signature fundraising event hosted by Turnstone's Board of Directors. The event features cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and dinner, and unique live and silent auctions. A special "Mission Moment" is shared by a Turnstone client, which always proves to be the highlight of this extraordinary evening. Register to receive more updates about the event at turnstone.org/gala

JERK Golf Outing

August 8, 2020:

Turnstone is partnering with the JERK League to host its 12th Annual Golf Outing. The event features 18 holes of golf, beverages and lunch, a few specialty holes such as corn hole, marshmallow drive, and an adaptive hockey shot. The event promises to be a good time had by all golfers.

For more information about tournaments and volunteer opportunities, visit us at

Turnstone.org



A NOTE FROM THE
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Mike Mushett

This issue of Turnstone's EMPOWER newsletter will likely find you enjoying Indiana's summer. And, in the midst of enjoying a welcome season of outdoor activities and sunshine, we all continue to navigate together the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the new normal it continues to create for all of us.

Children and adults with disabilities are all too familiar with having to navigate a complex world. And your support of Turnstone's mission to empower people with disabilities has been a source of support and hope for over 76 years. Because of people like you, as our community felt the grip of COVID-19, it was magnified for people with disabilities.

You helped us keep our doors open, even as our building closed. This issue of EMPOWER highlights two of the countless stories of lives made full in the face of an unprecedented pandemic. Dolly and Sebastian had limited options for meeting their needs when the world seemed to isolate them. But, donations to Turnstone ensured that they and thousands of others had access to the resources and services that positively impacted their health and quality of life.

We could not continue to serve people with disabilities and our community without your ongoing support. Thank you for being committed to the health and wellness of children and adults with disabilities in our community.