

ATLAS of Osceola Co.

Attaining Truth, Love And Self-control

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From the Director's Desk...



In this season of giving thanks and gift-giving, we at ATLAS were given a beautiful gift which came by way of a thank-you from someone who has been gracing our office for many years. I asked if we could share her thank-you and she said, "Of course." Then she asked if she could share a bit more. Here are her beautiful and courageous words of thanks.

To the ATLAS staff,

All of you are awesome because you've helped so many people by doing God's work. You listen and talk and are genuine friends with "the least of these." But you go further and befriend people. You are great examples of walking in Jesus' shoes cause you stand by those people that most others wouldn't even look at or give the time of day to! I admire that in all of you. You are genuine with "the least of these" like me and you let the Holy Spirit work through you to do His work that so desperately needs to be done. Thanks for all you do.

When I wrote this note to my ATLAS family, I was depressed and out of sorts with things. Even though they aren't professional therapists, they are my therapists because they listen and they pray with me. My disorder is bi-polar. Bipolar is a manic-depressive

mental disorder. I deal with the depressive part most of the time. Many people think depressive individuals are lazy but we are not. We withdraw from normal life and isolate ourselves until we feel like we can deal with life again. Mostly we just want to feel like we can participate in everyday life without everything being such a struggle. Even though I'm on medication daily, I still need "talk" therapy. The two go hand-in-hand to keep a person that has a bi-polar disorder on an even keel. Some time ago I decided that I no longer consider myself in "the least of these" category. Through many people praying for me, the ATLAS staff, the Holy Spirit, faith and time, I consider myself on the way to the Holy Healing Light! I have a lot of scars from the past and I'm still taking one step at a time—sometimes they are baby steps and sometimes I still relapse (I'm human). But now I'm facing my life in a different "Light" thanks to my Christian family at ATLAS, my physicians, and everyone who has prayed for my family, friends and for me. I thank God for a welcoming place called ATLAS and the people who work there. They're my family. Thanks again and God bless you!



Darcy

LETTER FROM LOCK-UP

Hey Guys. Here I am behind bars again. But this time is different. For starters, I have less time to serve than I'm used to doing. Second, this time I have more to keep me going than just family (who, by the way, are tired of these extended stays). I have Clark and all the volunteers at ATLAS helping me find who I am and how to achieve the goals I've been striving for. . . for as long I can remember. This time I have hope. My future is based on that hope, not the empty promises I make to myself anymore. I'm tired of living in someone's shadow—I want to cast my own. Cause

no matter what there is someone, a brother, mother, sister or friend out there just dying to see you, hug you, be with you and love you. ATLAS has shown me that love conquers all—even through these walls.

With love, "Tough"

ATLAS Wish List

- Gas Gift Cards ~ Grocery Gift Cards
- Self-sealing #10 envelopes
- Coke or Pepsi products
- Parakeet bird seed
- Single serving chips





Hi, I'm Carol. I grew up in the south in metropolitan settings. When my husband, Gary, said he was led to move to the north to tell his family in Minneapolis about Jesus and what He has done in our lives, I questioned God's involvement because I was happy where we

were living. I moved to Iowa, angry, hurt and pretending to "submit to my husband." Having never lived in a rural community, I was confused that people seemed to know who I was, my relatives, and where I lived. I mistook their friendliness as being nosy. Since then I have grown to feel a part of this community and joining the ATLAS prayer team several years ago made me aware of the many needs here. ATLAS gave me mentorship training for future help and now I fill the volunteer position on Mondays at the front desk. I have been a desk greeter, receptionist, scheduler and whatever the office might require since January this year and have not regretted a minute of this time at ATLAS. Every person calling or coming into the ATLAS office makes my day and getting to know the staff has improved my outlook on God's way of doing things.



We do our best to thank our financial partners throughout the year. But in case we've somehow missed you. . .

Thank-you to all first-time givers and faithful monthly financial partners. As we praise God for another bountiful harvest we thank the local farmers who have donated grain this year. The offerings collected for ATLAS in our area churches are a tremendous blessing as well. We also express appreciation for the memorial gifts received this past year.

Thank-you to all who have given!

If you've considered supporting a local ministry in addition to the church you attend, your tax-deductible year-end gifts to ATLAS will be most appreciated and timely.

Each gift is stretched and wisely used to touch as many lives as possible. Please join us as we pray-in the rest of our 2015 budget and praise God in advance for providing. On behalf of the many we serve, the ATLAS board and staff offer our heartfelt thanks.

****ATLAS receives no federal, state or county funding. We rely solely on the gifts from people in our community and local churches.***

STATISTICS

2015 Appointments to date: 1535

BUDGET

Received to date: 65% of yearly budget



"Clyde's Corner"
A Bird's-Eye-View

Deck the Halls! Actually, we don't decorate much for the holidays around here; my Sweetie and I provide colorful decoration all year long. I'm just saying. . .

However, the ATLAS Giving Tree will again be standing tall, providing a way for generous folks to bless the singles and families coming through our door. Hanging alongside the decorations on our tree will be our client's practical Christmas-wishes. Please stop-in beginning Nov. 23 to pick-up one or more wishes to shop for. If you'd prefer to drop off a monetary gift earmarked "Christmas" our staff will do the shopping for you!



Want an easier option? Gift cards from any local business/gas station make great gifts and allow recipients to purchase items they need. It's a great way to anonymously encourage a struggling individual or family and lighten their financial stress. Last year's generous response produced enough cards to carry us through most of 2015 and distribute gift cards as needs arose.

We are also requesting bathroom/laundry room supplies and laundry baskets. Our staff will assemble and appropriately fill baskets for our families. Toilet paper is especially appreciated by all!



Please bring gift cards, supplies and Giving Tree gifts to the ATLAS office by Monday, Dec. 14. We'll then begin blessing our "peeps" with the fruits of your generosity during the two weeks prior to Christmas and well into 2016.

Stop-in at the office or give us a call Mon-Friday from 9-5 if you have questions.

We wish all of you a great Thanksgiving and wonderful Christmas!

Blessings from the birdcage,

Clyde 

Client Quotes

"Hitler would have been scared of my Mother-in-law; she can grow a beard. . . that aint right."

"This place is saving my marriage."

"Why do you think so many locals vacation in Colorado now? Duh."

"You must have more patience than Job. . . whoever he is. Who is he anyway?"

"Do straight-jackets come in a one-size-fits-most?"

"I'm not taking Viagra as an antidepressant anymore."