

ATLAS of Osceola

Attaining Truth, Love And Self-control

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From the Director's Desk...

"You loved your Mom so well that you caused us to love her too!"

Vicki Altena



It stopped me in my tracks. . . a single finger-print. I knew it was Mom's—left on the hand-held mirror she'd used

the morning of her heart attack in Feb. No one had used the mirror since. I stared at the fingerprint entertaining thoughts of preserving it. Most of Mom's things had been cleaned-up and carried-out shortly after she died in March. But this finger-print, this impression remained. Precious.



As I thought about it, I realized Mom's fingerprints are all over the house—in places they just don't show. And, her finger-prints are all-over my life too. She, like Dad, left wonderful impressions on me—some through words but most through example: always take the high road, always tell the truth, be kind and gentle, be slow to speak, forgive quickly, give generously, give of your best and pray about everything. Mom prayed about everything, just like Dad did. Often I'd come into

the house and hear her talking out loud to Jesus, thanking him for things, asking him to protect someone, or to help her find something she'd misplaced. She even prayed for her pies to "turn-out" and they were the best. Sometimes she would only be saying Jesus' name. I'd ask her about that and she'd reply, "Sometimes all I can do is say his name—which says it all." Priceless.

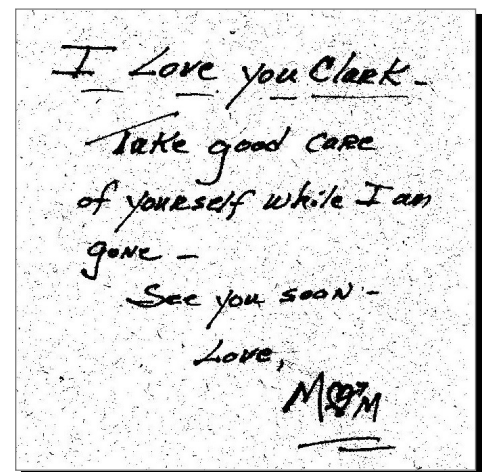
We all have opportunities to leave lasting impressions on others. At ATLAS we realize this and don't take it lightly. We do our best to listen and graciously encourage people through whatever difficulties (big or small) they're experiencing—just like Mom did. We'll help with referrals and walk with them as long as they like, praying for and with them during the journey. Their words, calls and letters of thanks let our staff know we've left finger-prints on them—lasting impressions that gave hope and helped in some way. What a privilege.

Mom's recovery had been remarkable. Her last day full to the brim. She was supposed to be coming home, not going home. How I wish I'd had the chance to say, "Good-bye." One more chance to thank her for. . . for everything, especially all her wonderful finger-prints on my life. But I know she knows. And I'll leave the one on her

mirror right where it is—for just a while longer. Precious.

I miss you, Mom. . . the sound of your flip-flops and the smell of White Linen perfume. I miss our drives through the country-side and our holiday Big Macs. I miss those—and a thousand other things.

Love,
Clark



P.S. I found the note you left me—in the box with your love-notes from Dad. Thank-you, Mom.

"Your Mother carried herself with such class and distinction but without any pretentiousness or pride. What great combinations!" – Dale Honken

From the

Mailbag



It's always nice to get letters from you. I still live a pretty closed-off, antisocial life so it's nice to hear from a friendly face. I've been meaning to write or call since I received your last letter but I tend to lose track of time. I still deal with periods of anxiety and depression but having a place to retreat to helps ease those feelings. I've got your ATLAS flyer posted in my kitchen; it helps lift my spirits when I'm feeling down. If I get some extra money I'll be sure to send some your way or buy some wish-list items. I've never been good at talking about my feelings but it always helped talking about what I could with you. I'm glad there are people in the world like you.

Take care, Eric

ATLAS Wish List

"Good News for the Chemically Dependent & Those Who Love Them" by Jeff VanVoneren

Bottled Water

Paper towels ~ Coffee

"Boundaries" by Cloud & Townsend

"Jesus Calling" by Sarah Young
Hersey's Kisses

LETTER FROM LOCK-UP

Hey Brother,

I got that card from you today. Just looking at the card with the picture of the ATLAS lobby on it, I can't help but miss that place. Just walking into ATLAS brings back so many memories. That lobby is the closest thing to "Home" for me. The brief moment of respite it gives me when I'm there is like coming up for air before having to get back into the front-lines of the war zone I find my life to be. Man, it's crazy. It's honestly one place I could always feel comfortable and knew I could walk into no matter how much trouble I was in or how many warrants I had out for me and never have to worry. I miss that place a lot.

Brother, I love you and hope against all odds this isn't what my life has permanently become. Someday I would like to manage to make you proud and for you to actually think that I'm not a total loss or hopeless case. That you can someday rely on me. That I won't be the guy I've been for the last 30 years of my life. I wonder why I even still talk to you cuz after all these years you gotta be tired of hearing it. I know I would be. But you're always right there. I love you, I miss you and you definitely matter to me—always.

Client Quotes

- ◆ "When the A/C goes out our house turns into a war-zone."
- ◆ "I need new friends; mine are all idiots. Can I have yours?"
- ◆ "This place is an oasis in my dessert."
- ◆ "I want to send all my kids to boot-camp—forever."
- ◆ "Half my family's either in or been in prison."
- ◆ "I'm glad the 3-strikes rule doesn't apply here. How many do I get?"
- ◆ "It's like you can see right through my head."
- ◆ "ATLAS calms me down so I can think. That's crazy-awesome!"



"Jude's Jottings" A Bird's-Eye-View

I'll bet you didn't know ATLAS of Osceola has only two fundraisers each year! Yup, just two. The first one is our Omelet Brunch in June. This year's turnout was the largest ever with just under 400 people coming to the brunch. It takes 98 dozen eggs to make that many omelets. My Sweetie and I try not to think about that—what an awful thought! But piles of ham, fixings and mountains of cheese make those omelets pretty popular, especially when topped-off with delicious homemade muffins. The ATLAS crew sure is grateful for the volunteers who helped and provided supplies. They're tickled about the turnout too. Yes, it was a lot of work but a very good day.

The second event is coming-up fast. It's our **Fall Celebration Banquet complete with a catered meal and superb silent auction featuring oodles of unique items and delicious homemade goodies.** A short program follows the meal where our staff gives an update on the past year and some of our "peeps" share their stories. It's a fun evening of eating, bidding and hearing how Jesus is touching lives through our local ATLAS office. **This year's banquet will be on Wed. August 30 at the Ashton Legion Building.** Announcements will be in church bulletins as the date gets closer and tickets are required. Tickets to the banquet are free but limited in number so you'll want to be an early-bird and pick yours up when they become available in August. Free-will, tax-deductible donations that evening (and anytime!) are greatly appreciated and keep the doors open and lights-on back here at the office. Be watching for more banquet details! It's going to be a great night!



In the meantime, my Sweetie and I wish all of you a wonderful summer.

Joyfully yours,

Jude



Director

Clark Haken

Client Advocates

Jan Pearson

Tricia Dagal

Prayer/Mentor Coordinator

Merilyce VerSteege



Office Volunteers

Linda Verbrugge-Treas.

Murt Vogel

Geri Howard

Carol Reimer

Board Members

John Van Diepen, Pres.

Deb Kusters, Secty.

Peg Van Kley

Kathleen Osterman

Doug Noonkester

Bill Boer

Karen Glade

2017 BUDGET

Received to date:
33% of yearly budget

STATISTICS

Total Appointments
To date: 736