



From the Director's Desk...



She awoke early Christmas morning... being hit in the head with a baseball bat. Her boyfriend dragged her kids

into the bedroom to watch. The beating continued for 15 minutes as she screamed at her girls to get help. They ran out of the house and banged on neighbor's doors until someone answered. Her boyfriend took off when the kids ran out. She got herself out-doors and hid in the bushes until help arrived and took her to the hospital.

That's just the tip of the top of her story. She ran away from home at 14 and learned the ways of the streets. She did what was necessary to survive. Decades of opioid and heroin abuse, living under the radar, constantly on the move, all the failed relationships and now this. She decided it was time for a fresh start. She had family in the Midwest so she packed-up her girls and left the south.

She ran from her problems but not her old life-style. A new location didn't prevent her from seeking the-familiar. She soon surrounded herself with a new, drug-using crowd and developed a relationship with another bad-boy.

That's when I met Gypsy.

We met at the Nobles County Jail. Both of us were there to see the same guy—her new boyfriend. Months later, after he was released, we saw each other occasionally. On one of those occasions I asked her to tag-along with her boyfriend when he came to ATLAS. She did. Her eyes began to open.

Gypsy made a follow-up appointment for herself. She met with Jan, one of our staff mentors, who explained the cycle-of-abuse to Gypsy. The shoe fit and another appt. was made. Gypsy soon learned she could trust Jan completely and before long, with Jan's tireless help and counsel, sought treatment for her drug issues—all the while utilizing ATLAS for accountability and encouragement. That was 3 years ago and you should see her now! I can look her in the eye and say, "WOW, you've come a long-way baby!"

Oh yes, she's come a long, long way. This year Gypsy celebrated her first sober birthday (40-something!) since she was 8! She has a great job, valid driver's license and a new relationship with a man who treats her as a "woman of worth"—which she heard over and over in our office. She now recognizes she *is* a woman of worth and that she matters. She matters to Jesus, she matters to her family and she matters to the ATLAS staff. We adore her.



"What is ATLAS?"

"A place to come when you don't know where to turn."

To put it simply, we are here to help those experiencing distress. Emotional, spiritual, physical or relational issues can turn one's world upside-down. ATLAS offers a safe, confidential place to let it all out and then talk it through. We will listen, encourage and pray with you. It's our mission and privilege to love each person, guide them in the right direction and walk with them on their journey.

If you are struggling with life—**anxiety, addictions, depression, relationships, anything**—come talk to us. We're ready to listen.

That horrible morning with the baseball bat can't be called a Christmas miracle. Or can it? That morning, when she feared for her life, led her to IA. It was here she met her (then) boyfriend. Because of that relationship she met me. I invited her to come to the office. In our office she met Jan. Jan introduced her to Jesus. That changed everything.

We've got your back, Gypsy. We love when you walk through our door. We're here for you no-matter-what, for as long as you like. We're honored to "do-life" with you. And remember: You are a pearl of great-price. You're a woman of worth.

Clark

Happy Thanks Giving A Time to Give Thanks!

As of Nov. 1st we've received 69% of our 2017 budget of \$96,500. 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. Special

thanks to the families who directed memorial gifts to ATLAS and the folks who respond to our newsletter wish lists.

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.

Here are ways to financially partner with us.

- ~ Mail your check to ATLAS or stop-in to enjoy a cup of coffee as you drop-off your gift.
- ~ Set up automatic donation through your bank using a bill-pay service or direct deposit.
- ~ Farmers can deliver grain to an elevator as a charitable gift to ATLAS, which benefits the giver at tax time!

(Continued from page 1)

~**NEW**—We are now able to accept a charitable donation of stock which also offers a donor tax savings.
~We are a registered non-profit with Thrivent Financial and the Amazon Smile Foundation.

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 2017 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 to meet our current budget needs.

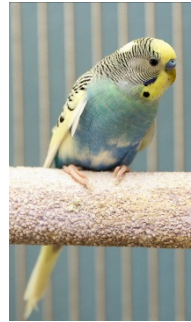


To our friends at Dyno's!

10 years ago the ATLAS donation jar was set on Pronto's check-out counter. When Pronto became Dyno's the jar remained and today it stands tall and collects change from gracious customers. Crystal, Dyno's manager, stops at the ATLAS office each month to drop-off proceeds of the jar. We are continually amazed with the generosity of the Dyno's customers. Over time, the bills and change collected in the jar have amounted to thousands of dollars. One customer dropped a \$100.00 bill into the jar after Crystal informed him of the "no-swearing policy" in the store—which requires a donation to our jar! Bravo, Crystal! We love that story and are so thankful that you and your staff keep the ATLAS jar front and center in your store. All the proceeds go to work right here on our local mission-field. So from all of us at ATLAS, HAT'S-OFF to all of you at Dyno's.

Client Quotes

- ◆ "When I walk out of here I feel like I matter and that feels so good!"
- ◆ "Call-me-out when I'm being stupid and use plain English!"
- ◆ "Everyone should have access to a place like this."
- ◆ "Am I that predictable or **do** you have a crystal ball here?"
- ◆ "I love my posse. Jesus had a posse too—but I'll bet they were clean and sober."
- ◆ "It doesn't feel weird anymore when you pray with me."
- ◆ "I can't put into words what this place has done for our family."
- ◆ "I come from a family of 11 and we're all drug-addicts or alcoholics. Our Christmas parties are really something."



"Jude's Jottings"

A Bird's-Eye-View

Hey everyone, this is Jude, with an important announcement. This Christmas, if you wish to bless individuals or families who come through our ATLAS door, here are two simple ways you can!

I'm proud to announce: **The Return of the Laundry Baskets and our Gift-card Gala!**

Purchase a laundry basket and fill it with Kleenex, toilet-paper, paper-towels and laundry-soap. These are practical items every household will use and around here, we're all about practical.

Gift-cards from any local business/gas-station/restaurant/Walmart are another great way to anonymously encourage a struggling individual or family and allow them to purchase items they need. Our staff will utilize the gift-cards throughout the year to bless our peeps as needs arise **AND to celebrate victories of accomplishment, sobriety and self-control!!** That's the part we really love!



Please bring gift-cards and filled laundry baskets to our office by Monday, Dec. 11. We'll begin blessing our peeps with the fruits of your generosity during the two weeks prior to Christmas and throughout 2018. You may gladly request one of our donation receipts to use for tax purposes.



Wishing all of you a blessed Thanksgiving, a wonderful Christmas—and thanking you in advance for blessing our peeps so generously.

Joyfully yours,

Jude



ATLAS Wish List

*Laundry baskets

*Gift Cards

*Ground Beef ~ Turkeys

Postage stamps

Canon Ink #240 & 241

Parakeet Seed



NEW—Check out the ATLAS of Osceola office wish list on Amazon.com