

ATLAS of Osceola Co.

Attaining Truth, Love And Self-control

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Vol. #702
2017



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From the Director's Desk...



Meet Ethan. He's a tall, lanky, fun-loving, quick-witted life of the party. He's 27, looks 21, smiles a lot, has a contagious laugh and can talk the ear off a perfect-stranger. Ethan's a son, brother, uncle and daddy. Ethan's a meth addict.

He's in jail again so I see him there. We meet in a small, cement-block room with a table and a couple chairs. When I told him we were working on a newsletter he asked to contribute. So I asked what he had to say about ATLAS. Here's what he shared:

"I never had anything in my life before like ATLAS. It's a place where you're welcomed no matter what. I learned a lot about myself there and could talk about my addiction with people I trust. It helps to let go of the crap I try to hide from everybody. You can talk about anything and they won't judge you. Feeling worthless kept me on a destructive path but at ATLAS I learned I'm not worthless and I'm starting to see things in a different light. ATLAS taught me how to start respecting myself and others. They tell me there's always hope even when you're down. They welcome you back with open arms if you fall backward—even if you go to prison they still write and will be in your corner. They see the good in you even when you



"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.

can't. I know I love ATLAS."

Ethan knows he's neither worthless nor forgotten—his ATLAS family makes sure of that. We've walked with him during stretches of sobriety and periods of relapse. We'll keep encouraging him and praying that his bondage to drugs be broken. We'll stick with him. . . no matter what.

Thanks for sharing, Ethan. Your words will give hope to others out there walking a similar path. And, Mr. Ethan, remember this: Jesus CAN see the good in you—even when you can't. . . and so can I.

Clark

From the

Mailbag



I don't know where to start but I guess it doesn't matter. Thanks for talking-straight with me and calling me on my bull**** without making me feel like a loser; it was a first time anyone ever did that. Thanks for telling me I was on-track for a train-wreck. Nobody ever talked straight to me like you did. Nobody ever told me all my excuses would keep me right in the hole I was digging. It was hard telling somebody I needed help. I thought it made me weak. But it's going a lot better now. Thanks for hanging in there with me. AND NO MORE EXCUSES!

Thank-you, ATLAS. JR

ATLAS Wish List



"Jesus Calling" by Sarah Young
Bottled Water
Swiffer Wet refills



White cardstock paper
AA batteries
Single-serve chips
Parakeet food



The Car Ministry of ATLAS— Give the Gift of Wheels

The car ministry of ATLAS (CMA) gratefully takes donations from people who are willing to give their used vehicles to people in need.



CMA has volunteer mechanics who work on those donated vehicles in order to get them into the best possible operating condition before giving them away.

An interview committee meets with each potential recipient and their advocate (from any ATLAS organization) to talk about life changes, positive progress and accountability. The committee then decides who will receive a vehicle.

Since its inception in 2011, CMA has been able to provide over 80 people in need with used vehicles from private donations. If you are interested in donating a vehicle, please consider donating it to the **Car Ministry of ATLAS** for an income tax deduction. You're also welcome to give financially to this ministry. CMA uses the finances to buy parts for vehicles so that they can be repaired and ready for a new owner. For more information or to donate a vehicle, please call ATLAS of Sioux Center at 712-722-4900.

Can you feel it... *... the pinch?*



Like many nonprofit organizations we've experienced a decline in contribution over the past several months. Nonetheless, we praise God for his provision knowing He can afford His work and knowing this is His ministry—not ours. Furthermore we trust God will continue to raise-up contributors and prayer warriors with hearts for the local mission-field we attend to.

We offer humble thanks to our faithful financial supporters, prayer partners and volunteers who make the ATLAS ministry a reality. If you've considered supporting a local ministry in addition to the church you attend, your tax-deductible gift will be most appreciated and timely.

STATISTICS

Total Appointments
for 2016: **1682**

2017 BUDGET

Received to date:
6% of yearly budget



"Jude's Jottings"

A Bird's-Eye-View

Your Attention, Please. . .

It's my pleasure to announce a brand new ATLAS office in Willmar MN! Yes indeed, our ATLAS community is growing again and this time it's happening to our north. Last year the ATLAS board from

Willmar put up their sign, opened the doors of their office and hired a full-time director. They are calling themselves, **ATLAS of West Central MN**. Jason Haug is the new director and he's very busy meeting with community member and forming relationships with churches, businesses and members of the community. Soon he'll be hiring staff and recruiting volunteers to help with the daily operation.

This new office in Willmar brings the number of ATLAS offices to 12. To refresh your memory, there are ATLAS offices in Sioux Center, Orange City, Correctionville, Spencer, Rock Rapids, Luverne, Pipestone, Winnebago NE, Zeeland MI, Carmichael CA, Greensboro GA, right here in Sibley and now in Willmar MN! Each ATLAS office has its own personality—based on the community where it's located. However, each office operates under the ATLAS Group umbrella, has its own board/director/staff and follows the same core-values while providing services at no-cost to the public.



Here in Sibley, our ATLAS staff knows they are part of a larger community consisting of multiple ATLAS offices working toward the same goals: providing hope, help, connections, referrals, mentoring

and most importantly, a listening ear. Together, all 12 ATLAS offices are touching thousands of lives for Christ.

But remember this: ATLAS of Osceola is the only office that has parakeets!! And that, in my humble opinion, makes our office special. . . and makes me want to sing!

Blessing from the birdcage,

Jude



Client Quotes

"I like your logo. What does it mean?"

"The atmosphere in here is weirdly positive."

"The best hour of my week always happens here."

"ATLAS is my no-nonsense safety-net."

"You read my mind—you just read my freaking mind!"

"Thanks for helping me start smiling again."

"You really look beat. You wanna lie down on your couch?"