

# ATLAS of Osceola Co.

*Attaining Truth, Love And Self-control*

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**Closed Fridays  
June, July & Aug**

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## *From the Director's Desk...*

Director

**Clark Haken**

Client Advocates

**Jan Pearson**

**Tricia Dagal**

Prayer/Mentor  
Coordinator

**Merilyce Ver Steeg**

### **Office Volunteers**

Linda Verbrugge-Treas.

Murt Vogel

Geri Howard

Carol Reimer

### **Board Members:**

John Van Diepen, Pres.

Deb Kosters, Secty.

Peg Van Kley

Kathleen Osterman

Doug Noonkester

Bill Boer

Karen Glade



### **Three Moms and Three Sons**

At ATLAS one never knows what the day will bring. It's probably best that way. On this particular day I met with three different moms. Each had a son weighing on their heart. Each situation different, except for unconditional love.

The first mom was dealing with anguish and disbelief. Her middle-aged son had died suddenly; the family was shell-shocked. There'd been no warning-signs. When the phone-call came informing them of no brain activity, they were forced to make the horrible decision of life-support or letting him go. The family (and in particular, this mom) had been through so much with the son. Prison is hard on the families of those incarcerated. But it's unbearable in situations like this where so many miles and so much red-tape separate them. They let him go and he died peacefully of natural causes. My conversation with his mom was a precious one as she shared her heart and thanked me for my weekly letters to her boy. Her great comfort during the worst moments: he believed in Jesus. . . and that will carry her on and carry her through.

The second mom's heart was also heavy. She'd seen it coming but couldn't prevent it. Her young adult son had been arrested and jailed on multiple charges the night before. How could it happen? She hadn't raised him to do things like this.

Now everyone was telling her to "let him sit" and that was almost more than she could bear. Feelings of guilt and her motherly instinct pulled her heart in the opposite direction. She knew to let the consequences of his behavior play-out. swooping-in and bailing-out her boy wouldn't teach him anything. We talked through all of it, drug & alcohol counseling, area treatment centers, etc. It was a very difficult conversation for her. But on her way out she said, "It's so hard, but I feel better about it now." She asked if I'd go see him. I told her



I've always liked that kid and promised I'd go.

The third mom was so excited to tell me her son was finally coming home. His incarceration has been as hard on her as it's been on him. Multiple disappointments about his release date dashed their hopes during the past months. His depression, while tough for him, has been horrible for her to deal with. But soon she'll be picking him up, and this time she won't be making a return trip to big buildings surrounded by razor-wire. She was all smiles as we parted and said, "We're going to be stopping at ATLAS so he can schedule appointments." I told her I'd send him one last letter and look forward to his arrival.

There were plenty other appointments that day, each one unique and equally important. But for me, the three moms and their love for those boys was a perfect reminder of Jesus' love for us—unconditional. Like the moms, Jesus grieves over our poor choices and lack of self-control. He longs for us to choose the higher-road and turn to him. Yet, he loves us through it all. And at ATLAS, we do our best to follow his lead—no matter the situation or length of the journey, no matter what. I thank these three moms for that reminder. Each a glowing example of deep, long-suffering, unconditional love.

**Clark**

## **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.



*"If one falls down,  
his friend can  
help him up.*

*But pity the man who  
falls and has  
no one to help  
him up!"*

*Ecclesiastes 4:10*

*ATLAS Staff,*



*How thankful I am for your words of encouragement and strength. Praise God for reminding me I'm a woman of faith and a woman of God—deserving of all God has for me. I am strong, confident and beautiful inside and out. Your words have given me more confidence in myself than I've had in a while. It was hard to come to you with my awkward situation but you didn't judge. You understood and gave me good advice and insight into the situation. Thank-you – thank-you. God bless all of you. ~Grateful*



## Our Budget - could use a boost!

It's really that simple. Without financial partners the ATLAS door would close. But we know God can afford his work. **Here at ATLAS, God uses your gifts to help people right here in our community.** We see it happen many times each day. We stretch and wisely use each gift to touch as many lives as possible. We've had nearly 700 appointments since the start of the year—and that's a lot of lives.

If you'd like to help us help others, here are ways to financially partner with us.

- ◆ Mail your check to ATLAS or drop it off and enjoy a cup of coffee.
- ◆ Set-up automatic donation through your bank using a bill-pay service or direct deposit. We have direct deposit forms available.
- ◆ Farmers can deliver grain to an elevator as a charitable gift to ATLAS.
- ◆ We are a registered non-profit with **Thrivent Financial** and the **Amazon Smile Foundation**.
- ◆ **NEW** -We are now able to accept charitable donations of stock/securities. If interested call or email us to request the information sheet needed.



**If you've not contributed before and want to give locally, you can rest-assured every dollar we receive is utilized right here on our local mission-field.** We thank God in advance for providing, and all of you who remember ATLAS with your gifts. When we join together using our gifts, God works to accomplish great things.

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

## 2018 Budget

2018 — \$102,000

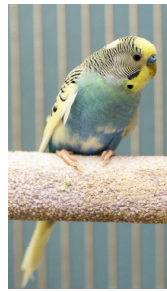
18 % Received

## ATLAS Wish List

Canon #240 & 241 ink cartridges  
 13 gal trash bags  
 Febreze air freshener  
 Pop-all kinds  
 Bottled water ~ Postage Stamps  
 Pledge Multi-surface spray



Check it out for other news & needs!



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

My Sweetie and I hear lots of conversations. And one thing's for sure: this ATLAS team knows how to encourage. But sometimes the team needs a boost too. So here's one for our crew.

Clark and Staff,

I know you don't know just how much you impact people. You do what you do because you truly want to help others and before you know it, the **IMPACT** you've made is bigger than you could ever have imagined. In reaching-out to give someone a helping hand, you can sometimes pull them just enough so they **BEGIN** to help themselves. You give them hope. Your sincerity is why it works, and best of all: **IT'S FOR REAL!** Plus, you tell the truth and put things in perspective. That's so refreshing because most people are afraid of the truth. You don't want accolades or publicity, you just punch the clock and go home—hoping you made a difference. And I love that you don't try to be perfect or insinuate that you are. You **SHOW** people your faith—not the gray cloud of religion. That's why people trust you.

If you've never been at the bottom, you can't truly appreciate what the ATLAS team does for others. Believe me, I've been there and I know. **WWJD?**—You live it and I know it. That's what I love about ATLAS. Steven



**Annual Omelet  
Brunch  
June 24, 2018**

## Client

"ATLAS is my new favorite place."

- Q** "I've been on the 'Struggle Bus' way too long."  
**u** "I need to call my brother's mom's husband. Yup, it's complicated."  
**t** "People are really bragging-up this place. Now I see why."  
**e** "Don't call policeman names. . . especially before you're arrested."  
**S** "It's beautiful in here. Who helps you decorate?"  
 "This place changed my life—I mean, this place and Jesus."