

ATLAS of Osceola

Attaining Truth, Love And Self-control

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From the Director's Desk...

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Clark Haken

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**Jan Pearson
 Tricia Dagal**

Office Staff

Carol Reimer,
 Prayer/Mentor
 Coordinator

Linda Verbrugge,
 Treasurer

Board Members

John Van Diepen
 Deb Kosters, Secty.
 Peg Van Kley
 Kathleen Osterman
 Bill Boer, Pres.
 Karen Glade
 Jeff Vande Griend



Ten years ago, Rod and I began our journey together. Back then, he was still able to walk. He came through the ATLAS door shortly after going on disability. His pulmonary issues made it hard to breathe and affected all areas of his life. Transitioning out of work was a big life-change and his teenagers were driving him nuts. He needed a safe spot to vent and found it at ATLAS. We didn't meet often at first, but as his health declined our meetings became more frequent. As our relationship grew, we began meeting weekly.

Two years ago, Rod stopped driving and started using a scooter, so I started going to him. His kitchen is where we'd hang-out. Darcee, Rod's wife, kept track of the clock to make sure meds were taken on time. Sometimes Rod coughed so hard I thought he'd pass out; there were lots of times he nearly did. Gradually, his condition worsened which confined him to the house. So he retired the scooter for a wheelchair.

One year ago, Rod's doctor put him on Hospice and gave him just six months to live. A hospital bed went into the living room and that's where I spend time with him now. That living room has become one of my favorite places. Despite taking enough morphine to flatten a moose, Rod perks-up and smiles when I'm there. Some days, armed with coffee, we solve all the world's problems. On the tough



days we leave them alone. But Rod is resilient—he just keeps on going. . . with Darcee right there by his side.

These days I so appreciate the gift of time with Rod—the gift of *his* time with me. We talk freely about life and death, mistakes, redemption and everything-under-the-sun. Crazy, the closer Rod comes to death, the more he understands about life. And Rod's not afraid to die. In fact, quite the opposite; he loves Jesus and can't wait to meet him. We talk about how wonderful heaven will be. Our frank conversations with no sugar-coating have been a steep learning-curve for me. I'm more blessed by our hours together than he'll ever understand. I don't want them to end.

I'm excited for you to "go," my friend, yet selfishly want you to stay. You're showing me what patience during pain looks like. You're teaching me how to be gracious and how not to complain. You're teaching me how to be real—in a way that most others could not. I'm a better person because of it. . . because of you.



So, Mr. Rod, when this leg of our journey ends, I'll know where the next one begins. Our separation is only temporary. Your faith is your testimony. Your salvation's secure! That's the best part of your story, my friend. And that's the best part of our story. It's the *only* thing that matters. It's *everything*. But in the meantime, as you defy the odds, remember I'll be right here. . . just like the first day our journey began.

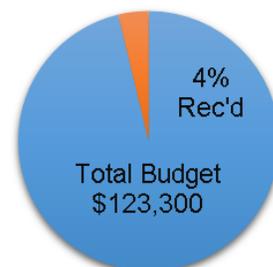
Clark



Fiduciary Note

First things first: During the past year, your generosity enabled us to meet our budget! That hasn't happened since 2015. Meeting our budget last year was especially important as it affirmed our plan to add an additional paid staff this year. So we offer our deepest thanks to all the individuals, families and congregations who partnered with us. We CAN'T do it without you but with you, we CAN. And we trust Jesus to move in the hearts of supporter and clients alike as we plow into a new year and a new budget. Yes, together we CAN do it. So here we go again---

ATLAS Budget-2019





Your Attention Please!

We are proud-as-punch to introduce the new ATLAS **Prayer Coordinator** and **Mentor Coordinator**. Our own Carol Reimer is stepping into both positions and we couldn't be more pleased! Carol has volunteered one day a week at our front-desk since 2015 and been a wonderful addition to our ATLAS family from the get-go. The front desk duties have beautifully prepared her for these coordinator positions. We can hardly wait to see where (and how far) she and Jesus will take them! And this keeps getting better! As she's done for years, Carol will welcome peeps as they come through our door—but from now on she'll do so three days a week instead of one. The ATLAS board and staff know Jesus put Carol in our office for such a time as this; His timing is perfectly-perfect. . . and we're so, so grateful.



From the Mailbag



Dear ATLAS staff,

Thank-you just doesn't seem to be enough but it's a place to start. Your unconditional love is a true cornerstone for so many people. It gives us a block to pull ourselves up-onto and do a reality check. Your support gives us strength to face each day. May God continue to guide you as you guide others. His blessings to all of you.

Nancy

Client Quotes

- "Coming to ATLAS beats listening to Dr. Phil—hands-down."
- "You taught me to keep my mouth shut. My wife thinks you're brilliant."
- "You are critically important to me in my Christian-walk; I need people like you to emulate."
- "You're the most professional bunch of non-professionals on the planet."
- "My last two therapists should come here so you could teach them how to pay attention."
- "When everybody else gave up on me, this place didn't."



"Jude's Jottings"

A Bird's-Eye-View

I'm feeling a bit blue these days and it has nothing to do with the color of my feathers. It's because we are waving good-bye to two of our front-desk volunteers. I don't handle good-byes very well—but neither does the director, so I'm writing this for him.

Murt Vogel joined the ATLAS family in 2008 and Geri Howard came on-board in 2013. Over the years both ladies have given a day per week, providing the all-important warm welcome as peeps come through our door. Over time, those warm welcomes have put hundreds of peeps at ease, lessened anxieties and paved the way for comfortable appointments. Yes, Murt and Geri have done that and so much more. Additionally, Geri has been our Thank-you Lady, writing hundreds of thank-you notes to our supporters every year.

While parting is sweet-sorrow, the ATLAS family knows both Murt and Geri will be a blessing to many others as they land in their new locations, Orange City and Sioux Falls respectively. After all, being the hands and feet of Jesus is second-nature for them—which is why we (and all the peeps who love them) will miss them so much.



Thank-you, Murt and Geri, for giving of yourselves and making ATLAS a place of refuge and encouragement for so many people—board and staff included. Remember this: No matter where you are, you will always be ATLAS family. Godspeed.

Jude



ATLAS Wish List

Gas gift cards

Coffee, Pop—all kinds

Swiffer Wet refills

Postage stamps

Febreze fabric spray

24 lb Printer paper

Single serve chips

