

ATLAS of Osceola

Attaining Truth, Love And Self-control

955 2nd Ave
 Sibley, IA 51249
 Ph:712-754-4311
 www.atlasofsibley.org
 atlasoco@premieronline.net

Vol. #906
 2019



Summer Hours ~ June-July-August
 Monday—Thursday: 9:00 to 5:00

From the Director's Desk...

Director

Clark Haken

Staff Mentors

Jan Pearson

Tricia Dagal

Office Staff

Carol Reimer,
 Prayer/Mentor
 Coordinator

Linda Verbrugge,
 Treasurer

Board Members

Bill Boer, Pres.

Deb Kosters, Secty.

John Van Diepen

Peg Van Kley

Kathleen Osterman

Karen Glade

Jeff Vande Griend



A pair of cardinals returned to my place this spring; I'd been waiting all winter for them. They've been frequent-flyers at the birdseed buffet on my back-drive. Lately, it's father cardinal followed closely by his 4 kids. They are nearly as big

as their dad and stick with him like glue. All the live-long-day he's busy showing them what to eat and where to find it. He's teaching them to avoid the crabby blackbirds and blue jays. When a hawk or cat arrives, he sounds the alarm and leads his brood to the safety of the evergreens. This 24/7 dad is tirelessly teaching his kids the things they need to know so they'll grow-up to have a fighting chance. The window of opportunity to teach them is short and he's not wasting it. He's doing what a father should do: training-up his kids in the way they should go—before they fly-the-coop. Oh, for more fathers like him.



Meet my young friend, Ashton. His father is no father cardinal. Ashton's father is in jail awaiting a lengthy federal prison sentence for conspiracy to buy and distribute meth. Like his 3 younger siblings, Ashton's grown up watching and being subjected to the destructive effects of his father's drug use. He was forced to grow-up at an early age to assist his remarkable mom as she managed the family, the household and her career with little or no help from Ashton's father. Ashton worked during high school to help supplement the family income and by default, became the man-of-the-house due to his father's absence.

Thankfully, Ashton began seeking wise counsel during his high school years and learned to love his dad from afar. His determination to break the family cycle of dysfunction has been nothing short of remarkable. Ashton's grown into an intelligent, thoughtful, natural-leader who won't be derailed by unfortunate circumstances beyond his control. Instead, he's learned to utilize said-circumstances as a means to strengthen his resolve and overcome obstacles. His determination is incessant. And now that his father is sober, Ashton's quickly rebuilding their relationship. It's beautiful to watch and it proves God can restore the years the locusts have devoured.

Like the young cardinals, Ashton will soon fly-the-coop. This fall he'll take-off for college where he'll surpass expectations. His success will continue to provide inspiration for his younger siblings, his peers and so many in the community who are aware of his

family's situation. Individuals like Ashton restore my hope in the next generation. I'm proud to call him my friend.

It's been an honor to walk alongside you these past few years, Ashton. Though I hate to see you leave, I'll cheer you on as you go. Your ATLAS family will pray you forward and pray you through. And come next spring, as I wait for the return of the cardinals, know I'll be waiting for your return too. Indeed.

Clark

"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.

WANTED!

**A Few Good Women
 And A Few Good Men
 ATLAS Needs
 Prayer Warriors**

I'm Carol, the ATLAS Prayer Coordinator. I'm in the office Tuesday – Thursday, answering the phone, scheduling appointments and handling other front-desk duties. My prayer position involves documenting prayer requests and praises of the people we serve, our Board of Directors and our county's businesses and churches. We also pray for other concerns God lays on hearts. For the sake of anonymity, most requests are edited before I email them to our committed prayer volunteers.

If you would like to pray for our "peeps" and our community, we invite you to join our team. As a volunteer, you would receive emailed requests once or twice a week and may pray whenever and wherever you choose. Just call Carol at ATLAS (754-4311) to get it set up.

"Never underestimate the power of a single prayer."

"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

A Note From The Board President...

Philippians 1:6 says, "And I am sure that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on that day when Christ Jesus comes back again." This verse has meant a lot to me throughout my life. It reminds me that God is working on my rough edges with the goal of making me more like his son, Jesus. When I blow it, the Holy Spirit reminds me through this verse that He is not done with me yet and that He does not give up on me. This verse also represents the ministry of ATLAS of Osceola County. Jesus sees each one of us exactly as we are at this moment and He sees what we will become with life in him. The ATLAS staff has fully embraced this. They focus on what each person is capable of becoming—not their issue, situation, or problem. They see people as Jesus sees people. That's incredibly significant to those ATLAS serves.

Frequently, I've been asked why I'm a part of the ATLAS ministry and willing to serve on its board. There are several reasons I am involved. First, it gives me the opportunity to be Jesus' hands and feet here on earth. Second, when I was 28, I was traveling a rocky road. At that time in my life, I wish there had been a place like ATLAS for me. I would have loved a safe place to empty the rocks out of my buckets—to lighten the load. Third, ATLAS is a place where the authentic work of Jesus Christ is being accomplished. Finally, ATLAS keeps the awesomeness of God's mercy and grace fresh and alive for me. Over time, it's easy for Christians to let their flames dwindle. Being part of this life-changing ministry helps me to keep God's grace fresh and precious.

Clark, the ATLAS Director, frequently says, "Jesus loves people so we are going to love people." Thank you for the financial support and prayer support of ATLAS. Every gift matters. Every prayer matters. Please keep doing those two things, so our staff can continue to serve and continue to love people. May God bless you as you bless ATLAS of Osceola County.

Bill Boer

Client Quotes

"Mooning that cop was a terrible idea. Terrible."

"I hate Dr. Phil. My wife thinks he's God."

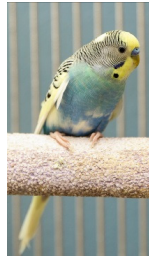
"Sometimes you don't understand what's on the other side of getting help."

"My sister may be smoking pot now—but at least she aint drinking."

"Nobody's ever been as invested in me as you are."

"This town needs an ATLAS mobile-unit."

"You're right. . . poisoning my in-laws is not worth the jail-time."



"Jude's Jottings"

A Bird's-Eye-View

Summer greetings to everyone from the friendliest bird in town. Yup, that would be me! Sometimes the ATLAS staff calls me the noisiest bird in town. I don't think I'm noisy but there are some things in the office that are. . . like the phone. It rings and rings. I call *that* noisy. Peeps keep calling to schedule appointments and to ask the staff all sorts of questions. The phone is close to the birdcage so I always jump when it rings. Ugh. And then there's the door-bell. It's not really a door-bell; it's a gadget that makes a "ding-dong" sound every time the door opens. We hear that noisy thing all the time.



But hearing the phone ring and the sound of the door-bell means peeps are scheduling and coming in for appointments. And coming in they are. In years past the schedule slowed down during the summer months but it doesn't anymore. And since the beginning of the year, our door-bell has sounded over 890 times. That's a lot of appointments! (And that's 200 more than this time last year!!)

All those peeps keep our staff hopping. But a busy phone doesn't pay the bills—a busy door-bell doesn't either. ATLAS has bills just like other businesses do. However, we keep our lights on and the bills paid though the generosity of individual supporters and our local churches who graciously partner with us financially. The board and staff know that God can afford His work—His timing is perfect. But so far this year, donations have been light-as-a-feather.



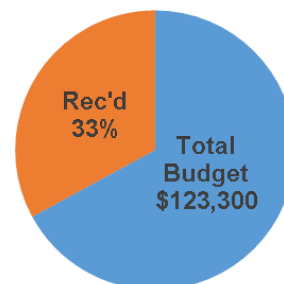
So consider joining our team by becoming a financial partner! Any gift, small or large, will be stretched and wisely used to allow the great things happening here at ATLAS to continue. And judging by the schedule, it's going to be a busy summer! Thanks in advance for helping us so we can help others. . . by being the hands and feet of Jesus—right here at 955 2nd Ave.

Joyfully yours,

Jude



ATLAS Budget-2019



ATLAS Wish List

White cardstock paper
Coffee, Pop—all kinds
Postage stamps
Gas gift cards
24 lb Printer paper
Wet Swiffer refills
#10 Self-sealing envelopes