

ATLAS OF THE LAKES AREA

NEWSLETTER UPDATE

SEPT 2024

1. MINISTRY TEAM UPDATE

2. REMEMBERING THE “WHY”

3. CLIENT FEATURE!

Greetings ATLAS Family,

What a crazy ride this month has been within the ministry. ATLAS has been experiencing an incredible time of growth and divine provision! With 17 new clients in July and 18 in August, that's truly a testimony to the impact the ministry is having in the community. The continuous process of serving others has become a steady stream of services in the Lakes Area.

Clients feeling cared for and after meeting with the team are powerful examples of how relational ministry can touch lives. As a team, we have stepped out in faith by adding Leah Jones to the staff to serve as a female mentor and assistant. God has also provided Patrick and JJ who are helping as volunteers in the office in a variety of different ways.

This season of growth has been both exciting and challenging, but I can assure you that the faithfulness and dedication of the ATLAS family continue to provide the foundation for serving those in need. God is providing the workers to fulfill the mission of ATLAS!

As each client comes in we follow God's lead. So many people are struggling through various crises, but one true reality remains: everyone who comes through the door needs grace and love. Phrases like, “Wow, I feel so much better after being able to just talk” or “I can't tell you how much I appreciate the time you have spent with me” mean the world to us. Helping someone with a specific problem with the intent to at least try to be there for them can be life-changing.

REMEMBERING THE “WHY”

As we prepared for the honored invitation to share at the 75th Okoboji Bible Conference, we were beyond thrilled. What a blessing to be able to share with hundreds of people who would become aware of our mission and what we do. I must confess, my mind wandered a lot... wondering if someone may donate a large amount or feel led to support us in a new way. We even had a jar for free-will donations and an envelope game set up where someone would give based on what envelope they chose.

ATLAS BOARD:

Roland Schmidt:
President

Clay Norris: Vice
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Sandy Krout: Secretary

Greg Jorgensen

Stacey Ahrenstoff

ATLAS STAFF:

Tonya Kuranda: Director

Kathy Norris: Lead Office
Manager

Leah Jones: Female
Mentor and Assistant

Therefore, since we have a great cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” Hebrews 12:1-2

REMEMBERING THE “WHY” CONT...

Well, my friends, we collected a total of \$30 in donations during our time at the conference and honestly, I questioned God on this. Now, it's important to remember that my heart was more focused on what we would GET, not what we would GIVE. Ouch. I realized the second day that we were not there to “collect money”. God had a much deeper reason for ATLAS of the Lakes being there those two nights.

As I was able to share some of my testimony with the crowd and some of our clients as well, we were overwhelmed by the amount of people who just wanted to talk afterward. Story after story, prayers, tears, encouragement, and divine appointments were taking place. How amazing is it that our Heavenly Father invited us to be there for others during a time of their life when they just needed an ear?

Those two days weren't about money, those two days were about our “why”.

We were blessed to be God's servants at the intersection of pure fellowship and love. What a treasure and humbling experience. Our God is awesome. Since the conference, two families have stopped by our office after they heard us speak at OBC and felt led to donate \$1,000 each towards ATLAS!

“You keep Him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts you.”

- Isaiah 26:3

This verse has been instrumental, in keeping our TRUST in God alone, not a check-book balance, challenging months, and the ability to continue our mission here. None of that matters if we hold fast to Isaiah's words in regards to the financial stability of this ministry!

We always like to share a client testimony every month to share how God is working throughout our ministry.

So, for Sept., you will hear mine if that's okay. ;) My prayer is that you hear why it is that I'm called to be here. I also pray that this newsletter touches your heart, encourages you, and may help you remember your “why”. Let's not let this life of craziness and high-speed rhythms rob us of why we are here in the first place. God bless every one of you and thank you for joining us during this journey, We couldn't be ATLAS without the army of support all around us!

God Bless,
Tonya Kuranda
Director, ATLAS of the Lakes

To hear the testimony, please click on the link provided in the email. Please note, you must have Facebook in order to watch. Sorry for any complications!