

Atlas of the Lakes Area Staff Expansion Continues

November 2022



JODI

I am pleased to announce that Jodi Wollmuth has joined the Atlas Staff to begin plotting the course of a new position, the Atlas Church Network Coordinator. The title is complex but pales in comparison to the job itself that Jodi has willingly agreed to tackle.

Jodi brings with her a thirty-year career in a variety of businesses in the Lakes Area, each job requiring a self-starter to be successful. More important she loves the Lord, wants to serve Him, and is committed to helping others as God leads. She fits in well with the growing staff, and we are delighted to have her join the Atlas team.

The network coordinator position will address the broad areas of 1) developing a communications network with the area churches, 2) establishing an advocate training program through the network, and 3) eventually promoting ecumenical prayer groups. The everyday pressures of the Atlas ministry result in these objectives rarely being done well and often ignored. Jodi's time will be assigned exclusively to these tasks to ensure progress toward accomplishing the Atlas of the Lakes Area Vision.

The full extent of the network coordinator job is a humanly impossible task. With God as our partner, the humanly impossible becomes possible as we trust God to slowly make this huge vision a reality. Our prayer for Atlas is that by devoting Jodi's time specifically to this area, Atlas can be the catalyst for meaningful cooperation among the people of area churches without being a burden to the staff of those churches that willingly participate with us.

Food Stamps are a Huge Help but Fail to Cover All Needs

Most of our clients have or are eligible for food stamps, and we encourage them to enroll in the SNAP program. For those in difficult financial situations, food stamps offer a small lifeline, providing part of that critical need for their family. There are other needs that food stamps do not cover. Most of us do not even consider these items to be "needs" because we just always have them available to us.

This unfulfilled need list includes cleaning supplies, paper products (toilet paper at the top of the list), feminine products, other hygiene products, over-the-counter medications, and *(for those of you who smoke and understand)* cigarettes. Food is readily available from numerous sources in our community, but the other products are not.

As we have encountered this shortage with our ongoing clients, we have tried to help with this need. The occasional offering of a gift card to Dollar Tree to purchase some of these items has resulted in genuine gratitude by those who faced this distinct need.



Atlas Paper Pantry

The Atlas office was once a cabinet sales business and they left a kitchen display which includes a large pantry. Tonya, whose heart is as big as all outdoors, made our help more personal by stocking the pantry cabinet with those types of products. The appreciation expressed for a gift card is magnified many times over by the face-to-face gifting of needed products in our office. That expression reflects an absolute joy and thankfulness that those of us who have these products readily available will never experience. *Your donations of such items or funds for us to purchase them for our "Paper Pantry" is truly welcomed by both Atlas as we serve our clients and by them as they are served.*

Growing Staff Leads to Increased Funding Needs

As our staff grows, our ongoing fixed expenses grow in direct proportion. The addition of staff, even in this period of dedicated staff training, has resulted in expanded and improved ministry to our clients. God has provided the staff and will provide the funding to support it. *Is he asking you to be a part of His provision?*

October 2022



Ministry Newsletter

October 2022

Atlas Welcomes Tonya Kuranda - Our New Ministry Director



Dave

I am pleased to announce and welcome Tonya Kuranda as the long-promised Atlas of the Lakes Area first paid employee. We have looked long and hard for someone who is committed to a life of service to Jesus Christ and who has a passion for loving and helping our neighbors as God brings them to the ministry. Tonya fully fits these basic requirements and also brings a wealth of education and experience to provide for this partnership. Together we seek to better serve clients and to create a growing awareness of the ministry in the Lakes community.

Tonya's life story has touches of some of the experiences that Atlas clients deal with. This empathetic awareness provides a deeper understanding of the problems that our clients face. She also brings a Bachelor of Science degree in psychology and a Master of Science degree, with Human Development and Family Science emphasis. Both degrees will serve the ministry to the benefit of our clients and the community.

Tonya's employment history includes eight years in the U.S. Air Force serving as an Intelligence Analyst for six years and then managing an Oral Surgery Department for two years. She then served as a Parent /Life coach for three years at LifeChoice Pregnancy Care Center, counseling pregnant women through a vast variety of situations. Her last job was working with a veterans' educational assistance program administering a federal grant through the University of Central Missouri. The program provides mentoring assistance to veterans facing a broad range of problems. In addition to her client contacts, she also served as the Director of the program for the last five years.

Tonya brings her love of God, her love of others, her desire to help, her broad education, and her vast experience to Atlas of the Lakes Area as we join forces to grow the ministry well into the future. The unique approach we have chosen to add staff has allowed us to find a woman with the strong motivation and skill set needed to lead the Atlas ministry in the future. We are hopeful that this partnership will result in such a transition as we trust God to lead us through the process. If and when this happens, I have also committed to then become the "best Atlas volunteer" ever and to continue to serve (without getting in the way) as many years as possible. We are truly excited as we walk together into this new season of Atlas ministry. Please join in praying for us as we embark on this exciting "Atlas Journey" building God's ministry together.



Serving Together

Our Mission:

Changed Lives Through
Christian Love and
Advocacy

Our Vision:

Fostering Community
Awareness, Concern, and
Response to the Needs of
Area Residents

Atlas Board

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Atlas Staff

Dave Butterworth
Executive Director

Tonya Kuranda
Ministry Director

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