

# ATLAS OF THE LAKES AREA

## NEWSLETTER UPDATE

DEC 2024

Dear ATLAS Family,

As Fall changes to Winter and God ushers in the next season, so does ATLAS. I've reflected back a year ago from where we were and I never thought we would be where we are today. God's methods are always different from ours.

This month we have the freedom to celebrate the miraculous birth of our Lord and Saviour. When I read and reread the story of His birth, I'm left with a few concrete points. God is not about the "bling", but he is about the "King". The King that made His way into our earthly home in a manger. The other concrete point that I am left with is the perfect unity that surrounded Him that night. My heart stops knowing that everyone, including the animals, knew something special was happening. How cool!

In this past year, we have crossed lines that keep us separated within the Lakes Area. We are unique, in that there are many different people with various socioeconomic backgrounds, and bringing this awareness of the need to the community has been a challenge as well as a blessing. I want to share one example of how our "community" came together.

ATLAS was attempting to help a couple stranded at the Spirit Lake Walmart, for almost a week. Within days of sharing and networking, we had individual donors, whom we didn't even know, show up and give \$100 to us to help this couple. The donors then wanted to know who we were and what ATLAS does.... We love it when that happens!

### ATLAS BOARD:

Roland Schmidt:  
President

Clay Norris: Vice  
President

Sandy Krout: Secretary  
Greg Jorgensen  
Stacey Ahrenstoff

### ATLAS STAFF:

Tonya Kuranda: Director  
Kathy Norris: Lead Office  
Manager

Leah Jones: Female  
Mentor and Assistant

**"The very purpose of  
Christ's coming into the world  
was that He might offer up His  
life as a sacrifice for the sins  
of men. He came to die.  
This is the heart of Christmas."**

—BILLY GRAHAM

**By this everyone will know  
that you are my disciples,  
if you love one another."  
John 13:35**



[www.lakesatlas.com](http://www.lakesatlas.com)

## DEC 2024 NEWSLETTER, PAGE 2

---

---

Afterward, Lakes AutoSport called and offered to help with car repair, the Ladies VFW Auxiliary in Spirit Lake paid for a hotel night stay, and Vintage Block gave ATLAS a very discounted rate for the family. Multiple people offered to be transportation for the family, as well. Can you see it? That is God in action and the ATLAS vision coming full circle where the community is aware of the need and becomes involved. Can you see it? That is God in action and the ATLAS vision coming full circle where the community is aware of the need and becomes involved.

The daily mission of ATLAS is to love others as Christ loves them and to uniquely serve as He brings clients through the door. We recently met with a wonderful lady who is battling stage 4 cancer. We talked with her for 2 hours! I must say, we get as encouraged by our clients as ATLAS encourages them. We came to the end of the appointment and we all stood up. Leah, our office assistant said, “would you mind if we pray with you?” The client replied, “that would be lovely”. We got closer and bowed our heads and I assumed Leah would start the prayer and she assumed I would start the prayer. She asked me to go ahead and pray and we began. I ended, “in Jesus Name, Amen.” Leah then started praying from her heart...words just flowing as the Holy Spirit leads. Tears are often flowing at ATLAS because of the Holy Spirit’s movement in hearts. These stories, I pray, allow you to see both the mission and vision being fulfilled by God at ATLAS.

**YOU** are essential. *Would you please consider a year-end gift to help ATLAS keep the doors open? You are the prayer warriors in the shadows, praying over the needs and for God’s continued movement in the hearts of those giving and being served.*

We say, thank you! Thank you for the Blessing of allowing me and all here at ATLAS to stand in the gap trusting God with how we use the resources.

Merry Christmas, ATLAS family. Let’s move forward, united in purpose and love—for ourselves, our community, and our God.

All Glory to God,

Tonya Kuranda Director, ATLAS of the Lakes