

Atlas of the Lakes Area - January 2024 Letter

The 2023 Year in Review

2023 was a year of increased referrals, serving people's initial needs and greatly increasing the number of those who became ongoing clients in their life-changing development. The need for added staff is great.

In 2023 the financial support for the ministry grew by 60%. Great news! The ministry expense grew by 115% due to having a full-time staff member for the entire year. By not spending other budget items we were able to finish 2023 with only a \$402 net loss. How does this information play into our need for additional staff?

At the January board meeting, Tonya presented our staff needs, and Dave presented the 2024 budget reflecting the addition of two ministry employees, one full-time for 11 months and one part-time for 6 months. The Atlas cash balance at the end of December can fund more than six months of this budget without considering any additional 2024 donations. Approving staff hires required a small step of faith by the board but they quickly and faithfully approved the budget, thereby permitting Tonya to proceed in hiring as she saw fit. Together, the Board of Directors and the Atlas staff continue to trust in God's provision as we seek to find and follow His will for the ministry.



Dave

A Small Step of Faith – An Amazing Addition



Tonya

As I write this letter, our new employee, Kathy Norris, is starting her third day at work with the ministry as our Administrative Assistant. In that short time, she has been exposed to the heart of the ministry with several clients requiring immediate help and attention. Many of our clients have mental health crises, and Kathy has skills in that area. She is meant to be here. God wants her here. He knows we need her here. We need a soft-hearted, level-headed beacon who can remain calm when a client is uncontrollably crying out in despair. I truly hope you understand what YOU are supporting here, dear friends. **Life-changing relational ministry.** There's a difference with this ministry: people experience God by being wanted, listened to, and cared for. Kathy gets that. We didn't even need to have that discussion with her. As the ministry continues to help more people, may God continue to do His Will. This cautious step of faith, fiscally speaking, has been verified by a flashing green light, with God

saying, "GO. I got your back!" He will provide a way through the hearts of those who are called to be on this team. Any support you have given in the past, and now possibly in the future, directly contributes to the success of His Ministry.

Excitedly Joining the Atlas Team

My name is Kathy Norris and I have just completed my first week as the Administrative Assistant for Atlas. I am beyond excited to be a part of this Mission and Ministry. I am honored to be called by God to be here in this capacity for "such a time as this." Atlas is a place that I have seen this week serving a variety of people who struggle with a variety of issues. We have seen 10 different clients, and a couple have come in more than once. My first week has been exciting, exhilarating, and thoroughly enjoyable. It has been filled with excitement for me as I have had the opportunity to jump in with both feet - answering phones, making appointments, sitting in on and participating in client meetings. It has been a huge blessing watching how Tonya and Dave work and being able to just scratch the surface of learning some of their knowledge of the ministry. I cannot wait for next week to participate in the ministry and continue to learn what God is doing right here, right now!



Kathy

Ministry Prayer Requests

- Pray that our shared training with Kathy continues the amazing success of her first week and that together we continue to be a great team unified in helping our clients while sharing our God with them.
- Pray we can provide God's assistance to the many homeless people we are currently encountering.
- Pray that our clients continue to be able to sense God's presence in even the worst problem situations they are faced with.