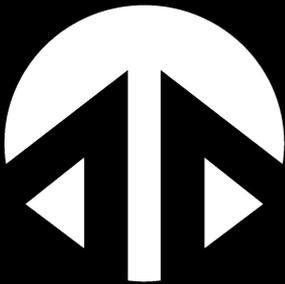


2019

**ATLAS:
LINCOLN
ANNUAL
REPORT**

"A place to come when you don't
know where else to turn."





MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

"I can't even begin to describe how appreciative I am of your support. 2019 was so blessed: Hurting people were served, eager mentors in our community were equipped and genuine connections were made. This year is overflowing with opportunity. We're excited to share 2020 with you.

Peace, & above all, Grace,

Brody M. Van Roekel
Executive Director

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SUSPICION DEFROSTED BY THE WARMTH OF UNDERSTANDING

How a personal connection can provide valuable perspective: A glimpse through the cracks in the continuum of care. These are the connections happening at Atlas: Lincoln.

It was Friday morning at the office

The snow had been falling for a couple of hours and an accumulation of a few inches rested on the sidewalk. Not but a few minutes after we had taken our coats off and turned the heat on, a gentleman rang the doorbell. He meekly asked if he could scoop the sidewalk and front steps. "Sure, thank you! Feel free to come in whenever you're ready for a hot cup of coffee," we told him.

Sharing music, sharing life

We had been listening to some of the greats before he finally joined us, the cold air still lingering on his winter coveralls. The room pulsed with the sultry sonorous voices of Smokey Robinson, the Spinners and Al Green. He came in for the coffee, but stayed for the conversation. Over the course of a few hours and over a few cups of brew, he reveled in the nostalgia incited by our playlist. Melancholic recollections tracing back to his childhood...at 64 years-old, Dan had filled those years with life. We spoke on love. We spoke on heartbreak. He spoke of dreams and of regrets.

Opening up in the warmth

The pot of coffee dwindled as the room got warm, and still, the conversation continued into the afternoon. The music, the conversation and the connection we shared permitted us the honor of his trust. He confessed to us that he was illiterate. His voice measured and his face wounded, he related to us that he had turned down a college football scholarship out of embarrassment that he couldn't read. He talked about life after his dad died and he glowed with admiration of his step-dad. He shared how much he missed his mom and he confided that he wished he had been better to her while she was still alive.

Frigid lament

Dan continued. He shared how money was withdrawn from his bank accounts without his knowledge. He lamented that his unofficial business had been shut down and his equipment had been confiscated. He still hurt from losing his home. Throughout the hours of conversation, we began to see a theme.

Through the cracks

Many folks are privileged by the education and social circles that allow them to comprehend general systems like collections, or basic business practices. Often, we take that understanding for granted not recognizing how much those conversations and educational foundations allow us the opportunity of upward mobilization. The types of people that have cared enough to have those conversations with us were missing in his life. A school that allowed him to graduate without ensuring he was literate. Circumstances that left his mom alone with Dan and his 17 siblings. The plethora of people he should have been able to count to intervene when they had seen him moving through life without support or direction. Well-meaning local organizations lacking the relational touch to understand the uniquely and wonderfully made Dan.

A stranger turned friend

Two days later Dan stopped by again. He only stayed for a few minutes, but his reappearance spoke volumes. The connection we were able to build with him over the course of a few hours, days earlier, left an impact that led him to return. He trusted us and believed we were going to be there for him. We didn't have the all the answers, but we were there to walk with him. He knew he mattered in our space and that he matters to Christ.

541

MENTEE HOURS

Our number one value: Help the Hurting. Over the course of 2019, one member of our staff spent 541 hours with our friends in a variety of capacities.

45

MENTORS TRAINED

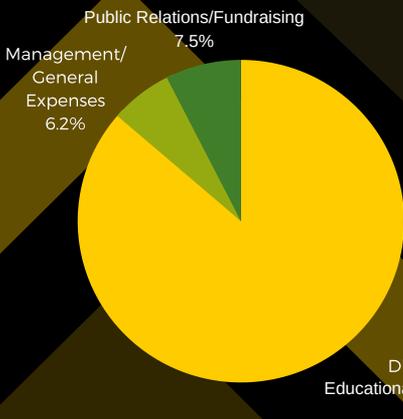
Our number two value: Equip the Saints. In 2019, our volunteers received top notch training which empowered them with the skills necessary to build strong mentorships.

9

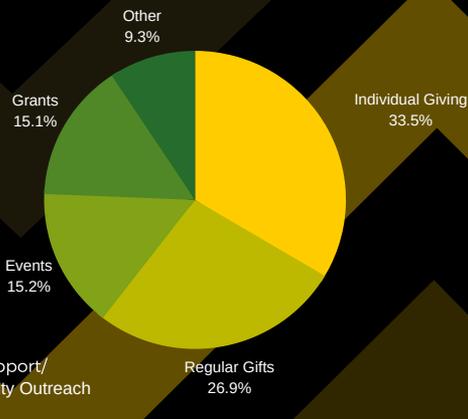
MENTOR RELATIONSHIPS

We were entrusted to: Create Bonds. We carefully & successfully mimicked the organic formation of friendship. These pairings meet once a week to share lessons, affirmations and to hold each other accountable.

The Reach of your 2019 Contributions



Expenses: \$42,462.48



Revenue: \$39,201.70

Your contributions in Atlas' first year and a half enabled us to expand our staff in 2019. We hired our first full-time Executive Director. These dollars went to supporting Atlas' three primary values:

1. Help the Hurting
2. Equip the Saints
3. Unite the Community

Thanks to your support, Atlas was able to step out in faith to provide a \$6,000 gift to Transformations Thrift Store, a partner ministry, in support of their start. We always desire to keep the blessings flowing.

2020 VISION

GUIDING INTENTS

Our vision within the domains of fundraising, personnel, and marketing will fuel the long-term goal to expand Atlas: Lincoln into other neighborhoods in our city.

\$10,000 surplus
at the end of the
year to expand our
existing part-time
positions

60% of **mentees** report
"increased life satisfaction"

Employees have the
flexibility to grow their
resumes

Mentor rate of re-
enlistment 80%



Increase **visibility** to a rate
which prompts unsolicited:

Mentee referrals - 1/week

Donations - 2/month

Information requests - 1/week

COMMITMENT

Our guiding principle for 2020.

With the new year, many folks like to identify a word or phrase to guide their progression through the year. For 2020, Atlas: Lincoln has decided that for us, it's **commitment**.

Commitment to our hurting folks.
Commitment to our mentors.
Commitment to our community.



We are committed to bring local churches, organizations, businesses and individuals together in partnership. We can't do everything for everyone. We can't even do everything for one person. We can, however, do a little of something for many people. Whether doing "something" means being a provider of respite and companionship for those in harsh circumstances, being support system and an outlet to do good for those with passions to change lives, or even simply being a willing guide towards better help. If we all do a little of something together, we have the capacity to be a force of exponential positive change for our city.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CHAIR

Jeff Heerspink, (2018)
F-Street Neighborhood Church

VICE CHAIR

Carissa Martin, (2018)
Hope Community Church

SECRETARY

Brook Talsma, (2018)
Grace Chapel

BOARD MEMBERS

Derek Effle, (2019)
Citylight Lincoln

TREASURER

Jen Hinrichs, (2018)
Redeemer PCA

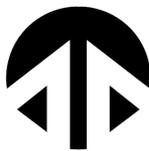
Ian Shada, (2019)
Hope Community Church

COMMIT YOUR WAY TO THE LORD; TRUST IN HIM...HE WILL BRING FORTH YOUR
RIGHTEOUSNESS AS THE LIGHT AND YOUR JUDGMENT AS THE NOONDAY. -PSALM 37:5-6

MAKE A FRIEND!

ASK SOMEONE AT YOUR TABLE

1. What does it mean to "help" someone?
2. Describe your guiding value(s) in a word.
3. What would help you feel "equipped" to support someone who was struggling?
4. How are some ways we can unite our community?
5. Why did you come tonight?
6. What In Life, Is Beautiful To You?
Where Do You Find Inspiration?
7. Name 3 things on your bucket list.
8. What's The Wisest Thing You Have Ever Heard Someone Say?
9. Tell me a time you learned a lesson the hard way.



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