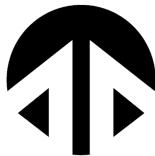


ATLAS LINCOLN



ANNUAL REPORT



WWW.ATLASLINCOLN.ORG

Atlas: Lincoln 2020 Personnel

Board of Directors in 2020

Derek Effle - Co-chair

Ian Shada - Co-chair

Amy Pfingsten - Secretary

Jamie Peer - Treasurer

Dennis Coudriet - Board Member

Gabriel Tufts - Board Member

Atlas Staff in 2020

Brody Van Roekel

Savannah Clapper

Sydney Worley



Our Mission

Atlas exists to serve the people of Lincoln through local, intentional, and relational Christ-based peer support.

Message from the Director

"What a year we had in 2020.

A pandemic, social unrest, isolation, injustice, so many challenges. But through it all, we have done our best to stay faithful to God's will for Atlas. We have strived to serve and love our neighbors on the road of life. You helped make that possible. Thank you for all your support in 2020. We're excited to share 2021 with you.

Peace, & above all, Grace,



Brody M. Van Roekel
Executive Director



Brody M. Van Roekel, Executive Director



Donor Appreciation Dinner & Mentor Celebration

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Annual Mini-Golf Outing in August

A step beyond punishment

Reprinted from the Lincoln Journal Star

On July 13, 2020, a couple of news stories that detailed two tragic events in Lincoln made their rounds on various news outlets. In separate, yet, unrelated instances over the span of a day, two human lives were lost at the hands of two different men a mere five blocks apart from each other.

A couple of days later, I was shooting the breeze with an Uber driver over my lunch hour when small talk turned to mentions of the headlines. My driver said to me jestingly, "You live in that neighborhood, huh? The one with those murders the other day? I wouldn't want to live down there. You got sons killing their fathers, and people killing each other in the streets. That's just a bad neighborhood."

It was the kind of day not seen in Lincoln since 1976, and he had likely seen the headlines or heard the news clips. Perhaps, he'd caught wind of the happenings from a friend of a friend who maybe knew someone who lives in the neighborhood. Who could blame the guy for entering that conversation with that perception when the events that took place were absolutely horrific tragedies?

Yet, the immediacy of those simple, non-malicious statements felt like a deeply rooted personal attack.

In an attempt to unravel my discomfort, I pinpointed it back to a defensiveness at the immediacy of his judgments. You see, the driver had never shared a meal, or even a conversation, with the young men charged in those two deaths.

He had never shared a laugh with either of them, nor called them "*neighbor*".

Moreover, he had never exchanged a warm smile or a genuine greeting with either of the young men.

Those men are not merely the worst things they've ever done. I know this because I am privileged enough to know them both. I've shared many meals in my home with one of the young men. I've had warm conversations with the other outside his home and seen him often spending time with and caring for his little brother.

I have called both of these young men neighbor. And friend.

My faith instructs me, and many of you, to love our neighbor. If we follow these instructions, it's impossible to reduce those men to just headlines or soundbites. "... God said: 'Let us make humanity in our image, after our likeness'" (Genesis 1:26).

If we subscribe to this belief system and have faith that there is an inherent value and goodness set inside of us by the Creator, we cannot judge so fiercely, and so unempathetically. We are defined by this image and likeness, just as we are defined by the love Christ has for us. We, as humans, are also defined by His capacity to bestow mercy.

I'm not advocating against consequences for our infractions in this world. What I am asking for, however, is that we remind ourselves that they are human, just as we are.

What I am requesting is a willingness to allow others the opportunity for redemption. What I do wish for is a system that allows for redemption and retribution. Restoration and not just punishment. Let us pray that we see no heart as irredeemable. Instead, let us imitate Jesus. Let us know the people around us as our neighbors and let us view them as... **beloved.**



What your contributions accomplished in 2020

569 MENTEE HOURS

Time together matters.

In spite of a year of loneliness and isolation, our staff worked hard to continue meeting with clients in new ways. These were hours spent with dear folks struggling down the road of life.

5 & 8

COMPLETED MENTOR PAIRINGS & NEW MENTOR PAIRINGS

Atlas is all about mentoring.

In 2020, we celebrated 5 mentor-mentee relationships that reached the goal of one full year of meeting together. Additionally, we joyfully helped 8 more mentor-mentee relationships begin in the midst of the pandemic.

700+ VOLUNTEER HOURS

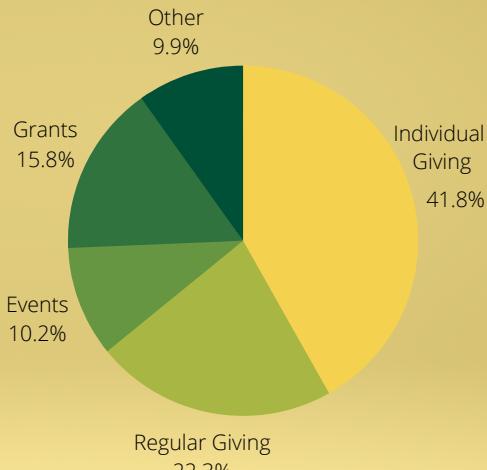
We wouldn't be able to do what we do without dozens of faithful volunteers.

These amazing people serve in so many capacities: leading Atlas as board members, helping us pull off great events, and, most importantly, connecting weekly with clients and mentees and praying for our ministry

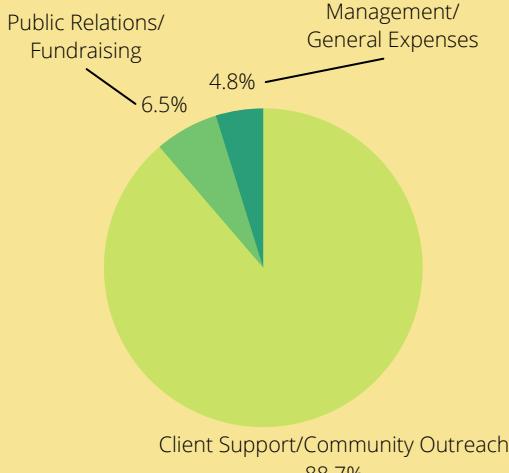
Thanks to your support, we doubled our staff over the course of the year, allowing us to expand our services. Most importantly, dozens of new people reached out for services and we were more able to address the needs of our dear people. Nearly a dozen new mentor-mentee pairings were made. Hundreds of hours of staff and volunteer time were spent serving the community in the name of Christ. We got to share Jesus' love in so many ways with so many people.

From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for blessing our ministry in 2020.

Revenue: \$72,804.92



Expenses: \$60,771.34



2021 Vision

All of these 2021 Vision goals relate to the three core tenets of Atlas: *to help the hurting, to equip the saints, and to unite the community.* Our continuing goals are **always** to spend more **time with hurting people, train and pair mentors with mentees, and meet our financial budget.** The below vision has been set to help us pursue our ongoing goals.

Find a permanent office space solution to serve as our base of operations. We seek a location in our neighborhood to be closer to our clients, mentees, and dear community people.

Add another staff person during 2021 to better serve our clients, our supporters, and our community.



Grow the public recognition/presence of Atlas. We want people to know our services exist. We pray that they are able to take advantage of Christ-based mentorship from this greater awareness.



EQUIP

*The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me,
Because the Lord has anointed me
To bring good news to the afflicted;
He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
To proclaim liberty to captives
And freedom to prisoners - Isaiah 61:1-2*

In 2020, our word was **commitment**. Throughout a difficult year of isolation, loneliness, and so many difficulties, we did all we could to remain committed to those we serve. We maintained our commitment to the clients with whom we had built relationships in the years prior, to the mentors who help make our work possible, to the donors who support us financially, and to God as we sought God's will. This year, we selected **equip** to be a guiding principle for our continued ministry efforts. Equipping happens in so many ways. We desire to equip mentors to care for their mentees. We seek to equip churches to better understand and serve the hurting people of our community. We want to equip the community to come together to better care for our neighbors. There is so much we can learn together.



As 2020 ends and we go through 2021, we hope to begin in-person training and support opportunities for mentors again.

Until then, you can learn about mentoring on our website at the link below.

<https://www.atlaslincoln.org/mentor-training>

Help support Atlas

2021 Events - Save the date!

May 25 - "Give to Lincoln Day"

First weekend of August - 3rd Annual
Mini-Golf Outing

December - Year-End Giving

TBD - Donor Appreciation Dinner/Mentor
Celebrations (as COVID restrictions relax)

*As we consider new events to engage the community and
serve our neighbors, keep an eye on our website,
newsletters, and social media for more information*

Other ways to support the ministry of Atlas: Lincoln

Volunteer with our Prayer Team by emailing
office@atlaslincoln.org - attn: Prayer Team

Select "Atlas Partners" as your designated charity on
Amazon Smile for a portion of your purchase to go
back to Atlas

Donate new and used clothes and household goods to
our thrift store, Transformations at **1241 S 14th Street**

Learn more about Atlas: Lincoln on our website
www.atlaslincoln.org

