



### ***From the director's desk...***

I want to share a story about my friend Adrian. Adrian has been in jail awaiting trial for over a year now and he's facing some pretty serious charges. For the last year, I've been privileged to visit Adrian almost every week. We sit for an hour and talk about what's going on with his case, how his family is doing, and how he is handling being incarcerated.

Often, when I have left our visits, I feel helpless. There is not much I can do for Adrian. His situation is beyond anything for which I can advise or provide help. Moreover, the regret and anxiousness he feels due to his situation is a heavy burden he carries.

A couple weeks ago, though, he shared that after every time we get to chat, he goes back to his cell and reflects on our conversations. He also mentioned that he heard an interview we did about Atlas on a local Christian radio station right as he was having a particularly difficult time.

This reminded me that sometimes the most important thing we can provide for people is our presence and our time. I'm not equipped to talk to him about the legal aspects of his case, but I can walk with him through its difficulties. Nothing I do can help him go back and change what happened, but I can support him as he seeks to grow and be better. Regardless of the outcome of his trial, I can continue to visit, converse, and be present with Adrian.

Sometimes there is nothing we can "do" to help people, but we can *always* "be" there with them. What an amazing gift it is to be present with those who are hurting. What a blessing it is to walk with folks who are struggling, showing them the love of Jesus through that presence. Who in your life can you be present with today?

## **Mentor Training Workshops and Support Sessions**

Atlas began hosting in-person Mentor Training Workshops and Mentor Support Sessions again for the first time since early 2020! If you are interested in learning more about mentorship and Atlas, you are invited to attend one of the workshops at our new office space! (address above)

- Saturday, October 23 from 9:00am-11:15
- Tuesday, November 16 from 6:00pm-8:15
- Thursday, December 2 from 6:00pm-8:15

We have also begun Mentor Support Sessions on the first Tuesday of every month from 6:30pm-8:00 at our offices. These are a great time for support, learning, and equipping once you've attended a Training Workshop. For more information, email [volunteer@atlaslincoln.org](mailto:volunteer@atlaslincoln.org)

## **End of year giving**

As we quickly approach the end of 2021, we hope you'll keep Atlas in mind for year-end giving. You can expect to see another letter from us soon with a return envelope for gifts. You're also always able to donate on our website at [www.atlaslincoln.org/donate](http://www.atlaslincoln.org/donate).

You can also select Atlas as your charity on [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) by searching "Atlas Partners" in Lincoln, NE. Get your holiday shopping done and have a portion of the money you spent donated right back to Atlas: Lincoln.



### ***Atlas: Lincoln Board of Directors***

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### ***Atlas Staff***

Brody Van Roekel | Alex Rousseau | Sage Peterson | Sonya Turco

# Atlas: Lincoln Welcomes New Staff



Our staff L-R: Brody, Sonya, Alex, Sage

“Greetings! God doesn't call the qualified He qualifies the Called. I live in Lincoln with my son and two dogs Zach, my rescue Doberman who is my mobility dog and Gia, my German Shepherd. I am active in Doberman Rescue and before that active in German Shepherd Rescue. We can learn so much about God through Dog Rescue which parallels God's gift of Salvation. I moved back to Lincoln in 2014 from Minnesota where I lived for 18 years. Go Vikings! I've always loved talking to people and have been given a hard time by close friends about spending too much time in the gas stations talking to people when traveling. I just love people. About 4 years ago I started to find a love for the very broken people. We are all broken, it's just a matter of our circumstances. I found that God had laid it on my heart to help them, but how? God answered that question and prayer just recently by laying this job as a Direct Service Advocate in front of me here at Atlas. All Glory to God !” - Sonya

“Hi, my name is Sage Peterson, and I'm one of the newest staff members here at Atlas: Lincoln and will be working as the Office Manager. Over the summer while I was an intern with Immerse at F Street Neighborhood Church I was connected with Atlas. Along with working at Atlas, I am also a resident at F Street and in charge of the youth program. Before coming to Lincoln, I worked at Prairie Ridge Church as a Ministry Assistant with the youth program. I grew up in Ankeny, IA which is right outside of Des Moines. Over the short time of living in Lincoln, I have loved the surrounding neighborhood and love seeing the impact Atlas has on it!”

### ***New Office Space!***

In May, we moved into our new location near the corner of 13<sup>th</sup> and D Street. It has been a great fit and we are so blessed to be in our new spot. We are excited to be right in the middle of the area we serve. Feel free to come visit us sometime for coffee, conversation, and a walk around our neighborhood!

## Summer fun with Atlas: Lincoln



This summer was absolutely packed with awesome events and opportunities to connect the Lincoln community with Atlas. On August 3<sup>rd</sup> we celebrated Atlas' third anniversary with an open-house at our new office. Less than a week later we



hosted our third Mini-Golf Outing with over 125 people playing a round with us. We are so thankful to the people who came to support the work God is doing through Atlas in Lincoln.

## ***A special thank you to all of our generous sponsors***

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