



Atlas: Lincoln

Attaining Truth, Love, And Self-control

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- Jeff Heerspink
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- Jen Hinrichs
- Brook Talsma

“If one falls down, their friend can help them up, but pity the one who falls and has no one to help them up!”

Ecclesiastes 4:10

Tami’s story

A few weeks ago, my pastor introduced me to a group of gentlemen who meet for weekly coffee. Most of the guys are older, and, from what I could tell, many of them had a passion to touch lives for Christ. One in particular has stuck out.

Steve spent much of his life as an alcoholic. A couple years ago, he developed cancer in his liver and didn't have long to live. He sobered up and started treatments. A month ago, his doctors informed him that the spots on his liver were gone. Praise God. The best part? That's not even the end of the story.

See, Steve drives for Lyft (like Uber) in Lincoln. Most of the people who get in his car hear about Steve’s passion for Jesus. He's been telling people about Atlas left and right because he's fired up about what we do. A few weeks ago, I got a call from a lady named Tami. She had ridden in Steve’s car a few days before and he had given her my number. She reached out and shared how hard she's been struggling for sobriety and with loneliness. We met for coffee and I explained how Atlas worked.



We talked about a couple practical action steps and have been meeting regularly. A week ago, we paired Tami with an awesome lady to be

Tami’s mentor. At the end of that first meeting, Tami said something that really hit me hard. "Thank you for giving me hope," she said as she left. When our dear people face lasting struggles, hope can become a luxury not worth holding onto. Giving people a reason to hope can help renew their strength. Through the hope of Christ, we can fly on eagle's wings.

-Brody



FUNdraiser Success!

On February 8, we hosted our very first *Atlas* Trivia Night fundraiser. Almost 100 people attended, over 20 businesses and individuals in the Lincoln community donated items to our silent auction, and people had a blast! It was an amazing night and we were blessed. Can't wait to do it again next year!



Spring has Sprung!

Happy spring dear people. We’ve enjoyed the sunny weather and increasing temperatures immensely, as I’m sure you have as well. We have the first quarter of 2019 in the books, and let me say, God is so good. We’ve been blessed in some amazing ways. The greatest blessing is the growth we saw in the number of people we get to serve week in and week out. From our launch in August 2018 to the end of 2018, we recorded 88 appointments between Atlas staff and clients in this fledgling ministry. Additionally, we estimate around 12 hours were spent between volunteer mentors and mentees in our first 5 months. In the first quarter of 2019 alone, we netted 146 appointments, a 65% increase from our 5 months of operation in 2018. We also estimate more than a tenfold increase in hours spent between volunteer mentors and mentees, up to nearly 130 hours. We want to thank the amazing individuals and churches who have blessed us with the investment of both time and money in this ongoing mission right here in the Lincoln community.

As we seek to “touch lives for Christ together” and make disciples, we can’t do it alone. Our increase in mentorship hours is a direct testament to the amazing disciple-makers who had a desire to connect relationally with hurting folks and took the steps necessary to make that happen. We wouldn’t be able to walk alongside people in pain without their commitment. We wouldn’t be able to do what we do without yours. What a privilege it is to serve these beautiful people. What a privilege it is to serve Jesus in His Kingdom.

Board Spotlight – Jen Hinrichs, Treasurer – *Who are you?* I grew up in Superior, Nebraska, and moved to Lincoln to attend the University of Nebraska. After I had a baby unexpectedly in college, I wanted a different direction for my life, but I wasn't sure where to look. A guy in one of my classes invited me to church, and I've been worshiping the One True God ever since. I spend my days helping with my husband's custom cabinet business, working as the office administrator at Redeemer Presbyterian Church, serving in various capacities and enjoying our four kids and three grandchildren.



How'd you get involved with/hear about Atlas? I met Jeff Heerspink, the president of our board and pastor of F Street Neighborhood Church, through a mutual friend. My friend knew Jeff was looking for extra ministry space, and our church owned the property at 745 D Street. Our church had done ministry in that location for many years, and still desired to see Kingdom work in that neighborhood.

Why did you want to start an Atlas in Lincoln? The first time I met Jeff, he told me his vision, and we both got teary (let's be honest) when I told him I'd been praying (along with others) with that same vision for years. Jeff had heard about Atlas, and it seemed like a perfect fit for our prayers, and F Street Church's desire to love the hurting people in our neighborhood, while bringing more workers to the field.

How do you see Atlas working in the community? I see Atlas building the bridge between believers who have a heart for mercy in churches throughout Lincoln and the hurting people in our downtown neighborhood. I have been one of those believers - wanting to help, but not sure how. Atlas provides training, vision, and encouragement for mentors, and connects them to hurting people who desire a mentor.

How does Atlas help pursue our call to make disciples and build the Kingdom? Atlas helps us pursue our call to make disciples and build the Kingdom by allowing us the opportunity to walk through life with someone on a regular basis, point them to Jesus, pray with them, then bring them into our church communities for support, encouragement, and to deepen *our* understanding of the gospel. I have been walking through life with a woman who battles mental illness for many years, and she has completely humbled me with her depth of understanding of God's love, has shown me the depth of my need for Him, and has shared this love with many others who now attend our church and have a greater hope, too.

Want to get involved with Atlas: Lincoln?
 You can find a number of ways to engage in our mission happening in your backyard!
 Go to <https://www.atlaslincoln.org/get-involved.html>

Fundraising report

God's provision has been on full display in our fundraising efforts. Between funds already taken in and pledges to be fulfilled over the course of this year, we are over halfway to meeting our *current* budget. It is our goal, however, to expand the Atlas: Lincoln staff by one position in the next few months. As shown by the numerical growth above, the need is out there. Adding to our staff only adds to our ability to serve more folks who are struggling down a rough place on life's road.

There are a number of ways that you can give to our organization. Our website offers a safe and secure platform which you can use to give to our mission. Visit <https://www.atlaslincoln.org/donate.html> to find more information. For Lincoln and Omaha residents, you can download an app on your mobile device called TAGG (Together A Greater Good). When you use the app at participating businesses, they will donate 5% of your purchase to a designated non-profit. Download the app, and start TAGGING! Find us at "Atlas: Lincoln."

Finally, the community of Lincoln joins together in an amazing show of generosity and investment throughout the month of May. "Give to Lincoln Day" on May 31, 2019 will provide an opportunity for people to support the non-profits of this great city. You can find more information at <https://www.givetolincoln.com/>. We will be sending a mailer out at the beginning of May with more information about how you can help us take advantage of this amazing opportunity.

In the first quarter alone, we have already surpassed our fundraising total for the first 5 months of operation last year, but we still need your help. The need is out there and the candidates for a staffing expansion are there. Will you help us meet this goal of supporting more of God's people?

Transformations Thrift Store – Your partner in Outreach

CeCe Robinson, Transformations Store Director
 Transformations is a thrift store opening in an area of Lincoln between downtown and South Street on 14th and B, an area of town with a reputation. We are a ministry with a dual mission. The first of those missions is to provide high quality items to the people of the neighborhood at low prices. What makes us different than other thrift stores?

Our strict standards for donations and our low prices allow people to provide for the needs of their household. Whether re-establishing a household after a life changing event or maintaining a home on a low wage, items from Transformations will promote dignity and worth rather than charity and hand-me downs.



The second part of our mission is to partner with the ministry of Atlas, relationally and financially. There will be a small coffee area in the store to facilitate conversations and relationship building. It is our hope that through these relationships we may point people to Atlas. Our volunteer base will be drawn from a variety of sources. These include other area churches and people from the neighborhood – or Atlas – that may need job skills or a way to fill time in a healthy way, breaking down walls and exemplifying the love of Christ. Profits from Transformations will go to Atlas to help support that ministry financially.

We hope to have you come shop with us and consider us in your donations; join us on this Kingdom building journey.

Raised – Green – \$16,568
 Pledged – Yellow – \$6150
 Current Budget Need – Red – \$22,282
 Staff Addition Goal – Blue – \$26,000

