



Atlas: Lincoln

Attaining Truth, Love, And Self-control

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Brody M. Van Roekel
Executive Director

Board of Directors:

- Jeff Heerspink
- Carissa Martin
- Jen Hinrichs
- Brook Talsma
- Derek Effle

“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

A year in review

In less than a month, we will celebrate the first birthday of Atlas in Lincoln! So much has happened since August 1, 2018 and God has grown this young ministry in exponential ways. It’s amazing what can happen when we follow Him in obedience

By the numbers... (Aug. 1, 2018 – June 31, 2019)

- Individuals served (approx.): 30
- Staff hours spent with clients: 371
- Mentor Training attendees: 32
- Mentees paired: 11
- Mentor/mentees hours (approx.): 300
- Number of Atlas-gift-makers (all time): 58
- Dollars raised in year 1: \$37,525.39

Numbers are only one way to see how the first year went. I’m partial to the stories, myself, and the words of folks I get to meet. “You gave me hope” or “You’re the only person who hasn’t given up on me” always touch my heart and encourage me in the mission of Atlas. Thank you for being a part of this first year as we serve God through Atlas in Lincoln, we couldn’t do it without Him and we couldn’t do it without you.

-Brody



“Give to Lincoln Day” 2019

We want to express a HUGE “thank you” to everyone who supported Atlas: Lincoln in our “Give to Lincoln Day” campaign.

We were able to raise just over \$4800! It’s amazing to see folks come together and support things that matter and many of you helped make that possible.

With the money raised, we hope to support staff at Atlas: Lincoln as folks keep reaching out for help and the need grows. A sincere and heartfelt thanks to everyone who has supported the work God is doing through Atlas.

GET INVOLVED

Mentor Training Workshops

We are always in need of more mentors. If you would like to partner with Atlas in this way or are simply curious about mentorship, join us at a free workshop. Held at the Atlas office (745 D St.)

- Wednesday, July 24, 7pm
- Sunday, August 25, 3pm
- Monday, September 23, 7pm
- Thursday, October 24, 7pm

Welcome to our new Atlas: Lincoln Board Member

If you’re a details person, you might have noticed our Board of Directors has grown by one. Welcome to Mr. Derek Effle! Derek is adept at building and leading teams from diverse areas, leading them to move through conflict to adoption and working towards a shared mission. He has worked with a wide array of individuals from government officials, volunteers, and with business leaders. He brings strong skills in communication, interpersonal relationships, and team development. Check out the next newsletter to learn more about Derek!

Website Updated

We recently revamped the Atlas: Lincoln website. Find information on almost everything related to Atlas, sign up to receive prayer emails, find out ways to volunteer, reach out with questions, or make a gift to our work. You can check it out at www.atlaslincoln.org

Board Spotlight – Carissa Martin – Board VP – *Who are you?* I am... a pastor's wife, mother to four, adventure loving, Jesus serving, encourager, friend, sister, daughter.

How'd you get involved with/hear about Atlas? I have been part of the ATLAS: Lincoln vision from the beginning. Before my husband was a pastor, we were members of F Street Church. Several of us mentored individuals and served them in crisis. It was apparent to us at the time that we needed a more systematic and widespread way to serve the great number of people desiring a mentoring relationship. When our board president, Jeff Heerspink, learned of ATLAS, we immediately saw the potential for it to be a great addition to our area.

Why did you want to start an Atlas in Lincoln? We saw over and over again people who wanted to care for those struggling with the effects of poverty, but didn't necessarily have an easy connection-point. We also saw the need for mentoring, and a desire from people who wanted mentors and solid relationships. ATLAS is an incredible way to connect people who might not otherwise be connected.

How does Atlas help pursue our call to make disciples and build the Kingdom? I see Atlas as a bridge for relationships based in the love of Jesus. It might not otherwise happen that people are connected who need one another and who can be strengthened together through a unique relationship. People who are likely really different from one another have the potential to grow in ways they might not otherwise. There is no better way (in my opinion), to make disciples than when two or three people come together with their same-time wholeness and brokenness, letting Jesus work and heal.



Mini-Golf Outing – Happy Birthday Atlas!

In August, we rejoice with Atlas' first birthday. To celebrate and to start year 2 off financially, we will host a Mini-Golf Outing at Lincoln's own Adventure Golf Center. The event will be held the evening of **Friday, August 23**. Make sure to mark your calendar and check your mail as the date approaches for your invitation. We hope you'll join us in bringing in the second year of Atlas: Lincoln!

Love is Never Wasted: A Few Thoughts on Loving People who Have Hard Stories - Jen Hinrichs, Atlas Treasurer
Pray for their salvation and deliverance. 2 Corinthians 10:4-5 states: "For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ." Don't depend on your own strength and wisdom. Pray for yourself - that you would be teachable and see the gospel more clearly through your relationship with your mentee. Pray you would not grow weary, and that you will love with the love the Father has for us. Pray for your faithfulness to God's call, because your mentee may never have had someone committed to their good. ***Invite them to church.*** It's amazing how this multiplies when they see healthy, supportive community. They invite friends, and your church learns how to love ALL people who are made in God's image. It has changed our community. ***Empathize*** - put yourself in their shoes. It is easy to be disappointed with your mentee's decisions. However, if you were born in a violent home, your mom prostituted herself for her drug habit, you were bounced around the foster care system, you started drugs at 10 (your dad showed you how to shoot up), and you struggled with mental illness...how would your decision-making capabilities be? Just because a person finally has healthy support does not undo a lifetime of self-destructive habits and ways of coping. ***Boundaries.*** Some people are high-maintenance, and will think they need to have you on call 24-hours a day to be OK. This is codependency. Their lives may be one emergency after another, with drama in-between. You cannot get sucked into their emotional roller-coaster. Decide how often they can contact you (you may need to ignore some phone calls). When you do talk, decide how those conversations will go. Don't jump in and help them right away, but help them walk through their decision making, encourage them to do the work, and point them to Jesus, whom they have full access to ALL THE TIME. Point them to God's word, which is living, useful for instruction, conviction, correction and training in righteousness (2 Tim 3:16). But please don't try to fix them. You will walk into a never-ending project, where they become dependent on you instead of the Lord. And you will be exhausted, unable to love them faithfully. DO connect them to the services they need: rehab, housing, free food sites, etc. You are teaching them good boundaries when you exercise them yourself. ***They may go back to old habits, which is expected.*** However, their time spent in that habit may continue to lessen over time, and they might come clean with you sooner, and ask for help. This is progress! Progress has a different starting place with very hurting people, and you need to be alert for positive progress over time, and encourage them with it when they despair, and give thanks to God together. Be delighted when they exercise self-restraint, when they confess to you, or when they admit they have a problem.

Love is never wasted. Plant those seeds. God will tend to them, where we may not know the outcome until Glory.