



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

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Year in Review

Happy New Year! I hope the first newsletter of 2022 meets you in the midst of blessings. There was so much to celebrate in 2021. We added 4 amazing staff people. We moved into a new office space in the core of the neighborhoods we serve. You responded in amazing ways to every

request for support. Our "Give to Lincoln" Day and Year-End fundraising goals were met and far exceeded. We appreciated a number of people who attended Mentor Training Workshops that we started again in August. Our events were well attended and helped expand the community awareness of Atlas in Lincoln. The leadership of this organization spent an incredible time in July outlining the three-year plan for this young non-profit. God's blessing was bountiful and we cannot express enough appreciation for God's provision and for you. 2021 also brought a number of challenges. Many of our neighbors still face difficulties. Our friends in jail await trial or sentencing, the possibility of decades in prison looming before them. The battles of addictions remain entrenched in the lives of many neighbors. Mental health struggles continue to plague many others. Through it all, however, God's blessing remains bountiful. We are so privileged to walk with our neighbors through their hurts. God continues to trust us with the hurting folks of this city, and we remain thankful. As we enter 2022, we ask that you pray with us for all the blessings and challenges God has in store for our staff, board, mentors, community, and, most importantly, our neighbors with whom we're so privileged to walk.



WHAT IS ATLAS?

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

Emotional, spiritual, physical or relational issues can turn one's world upside-down. For people struggling down a rough place on life's road, Atlas is a safe, confidential place to come in and let it all out.

Our services are free to the public. We listen, encourage and pray with folks who come through our door. We pair them with individual mentors who will walk with them through life for a full year. We make referrals and do our best to love each person, guide them in the right direction and walk with them on their journey – regardless of the distance. We let each person know they matter. They matter to Jesus and they matter to us.

We need mentors!

If you are interested in learning more about mentorship and Atlas, you are invited to attend one of the workshops at our office. (1039 S 13th Street)

- **Saturday, February 26 9-11am**
- **Thursday, March 24 6-8pm**
- **Tuesday, April 19 6-8pm**
- **Thursday, May 12 6-8pm**

For people who have been trained, you are invited to Mentor Support Sessions on the first Tuesday of every month from 6:30pm-8:00. These are a great time for support, learning, and equipping whether you mentor or not. Join us at both to learn more about how you can serve the community through Atlas.



Atlas: Lincoln Board of Directors

Jamie Peer | Amy Pfingsten | Dennis Coudriet | Gabriel Tufts | Dan Waters

Atlas Staff

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



Atlas: Lincoln

presents our 4th Annual



TRIVIA NIGHT AND SILENT AUCTION

Friday, February 18, 2022 • Doors open 6:30 pm
Trinity Lutheran Church
724 S 12th Street, Lincoln NE 68508



Staff Spotlight: Alex Rousseau

Who are you? Alex Rousseau - The Volunteer Coordinator.

How'd you get involved with/ear about Atlas? Right after Brody had moved to Lincoln, he and I were at an all-city prayer gathering and I saw him across the room. As the only other man there with long hair, I had to meet him! Fast-forward a few years of friendship later, I started mentoring with Atlas and that led to a job! **Why did you want to join the**

Atlas staff? Initially, it was simply that I needed a part-time job and I wanted to work in a context that I believed in the mission - Atlas hit both of those markers. It has evolved into my conviction that the Atlas model of ministry is a precursor for what formal ministry will need to look like in the next season of the American Church: highly relational & simple disciple-making. **How do you see Atlas working in the community?** As Volunteer Coordinator I don't spend a lot of time on our first pillar, "Helping the Hurting," but I get a front-row seat to

watch Brody & Sonya as they walk with our hurting neighbors. Brody and Sonya have both consistently made themselves available as distressed people have shown up time & again. In my role I am privileged to pair mentors & mentees together for the first time - there is nothing more beautiful than seeing two strangers start to build a relationship through sharing their stories. The ripples of love created in those moments give me a lot of hope.

How does Atlas help pursue our call to "love our neighbor" and "make disciples"? James 1:27 says "pure and genuine religion in the sight of God the Father means caring for orphans and widows in their distress and refusing to let the world corrupt you." Our goal at Atlas is to help people practice the two pure & genuine kinds of religion that James is talking about. For those that are struggling with all of the corruption this world has to offer (substance abuse, broken relationships, misaligned priorities, etc.) then we get to provide mentors to walk with them in that journey. Those mentors get to practice caring for people in distress (widow, orphan, or otherwise)! Ultimately the work we're doing brings about more *shalom* for all of the people in our neighborhood - amen to that!

Join us for our 4th
Annual Trivia
Night/Silent Auction
fundraiser! Find
tickets online at
shorturl.at/fwDJZ or
at the QR code.

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

In anticipation of year-end giving, we set the goal of raising an additional \$20,000 to support the work God is doing through Atlas. The outpouring of support was humbling. We *surpassed* our fundraising goal by almost \$5000. We are so thankful to every one of our faithful supporters.

Goal: \$20000

