



# ATLAS for LIFE Newsletter

Mentoring & More!

JULY 2020

**OFFICE ➔ 101 2nd St NE • Pipestone, MN 56164 • (507) 562-5777 • Tuesday & Thursday 9 to 5 (Other times by appointment)**  
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2020 has been a different year for sure!! Thankfully the one "constant" is that **GOD IS FAITHFUL!** We continued to do ministry at ATLAS even though our doors were closed for some weeks. We were able to do appointments by phone and staff and prayer times by Zoom. We also continued TreeHouse with the teens through Zoom as best we could. We are so excited to be back now with doors open observing the 6 feet distancing and wearing masks voluntarily.

We are so excited to announce the opening of Deb's House! We have prayed and planned for over 3 years for this day and it is finally happening. We invite you to celebrate with us and join us for the open house that will be happening on Thursday, August 6. Please read the articles about Deb's House that you will find in this newsletter. We give God thanks for his provision and faithfulness through the whole process and want to celebrate His Goodness!!



## THANK YOU!

A huge thanks goes out to all our friends that helped so much through all the remodeling of Deb's House!! Very special thanks to Darrel Tinklenberg that oversaw and coordinated all the carpentry needs at Deb's House the last 8 months. He spent countless hours and we appreciated his leadership so much! Also thank you to Jim Mische who worked in the planning stages and laid out the plans for the inside remodeling. We thank Jim for all his work as well as his expertise and overseeing all the demolition. Then also a special thanks to Jim Rozeboom who has worked the last couple months doing lots of the finishing work. We can't say enough thanks to these 3 men that put so many hours into making Deb's House a reality. We also want to acknowledge all the others that donated their time and even supplies to make Deb's House beautiful and ready for 2 Single Mom's and their children. There were so many volunteers, we don't want to list them all for fear of forgetting someone. Please know that we appreciated you and all your time donated. To God be the glory of the great things He has done! Thank you all for using your gifts to bring this remodeling project into completion.

## BOARD MEMBERS

Paul Cunningham, Pres.  
Karen Larson, Sec.  
Ivan Vogel  
Lisa Hubers

## DIRECTOR

Roxie Mulder

## TreeHouse DIRECTOR

Merle Knobloch

## NEEDS

Gas Cards  
Grocery Vouchers  
Recovery Study Bibles  
Bottles of Water  
Drivers for TreeHouse  
2 - Windows 7 or better computers  
Small storage shed for Deb's House

### Walk Along Side

Support Group for those who Mentor

As one walks along side a family member, co-worker, neighbor or friend who is dealing with hard choices or circumstances, one comes across various struggles in how best to help. In this support group, let's talk about how to tackle these inevitable issues together. We can brainstorm, pray and encourage one another. We will meet at 5:00 pm each 2nd Thursday of the month, beginning October 8th, at ATLAS for Life. We will discuss setting boundaries, keeping confidences, dealing with issues such as anger, shame, guilt, addictions and the like. We will learn how to encourage, pray with, and bolster those we seek to help. Looking forward to hearing from you.

### TreeHouse

We at treehouse family have done well through the last months as the Covid19 Shutdown came and went. We met via Zoom staying connected with our teens continuing to do support and Bible Study groups. In the beginning of May we could see the pain on our teens' faces as they craved more face to face time. As a safeguard against deepening depression and suicide we began meeting with social distancing and masks available. Thanks for your continued prayer and support for our teens. God is working in their lives and they are learning who they are in Christ! There is nothing better than seeing when a teen realizes he is loved, worthwhile, capable and never alone!!

## DEB'S HOUSE OPEN HOUSE



We are planning an Open House at Deb's House Thursday, August 6th from noon to 7pm.

The address of the house is 317 6th Ave. SE, Pipestone, MN. Our Dedication of Deb's House will happen at noon. (We will space our visitors to a few at a time as you walk through the house so we can honor the social distancing.)

## Thanks

We want to thank Vi De Groot for all the work she has done for ATLAS the last 5 years. She has been such a blessing to help out wherever she saw a need. She has spent hours doing ATLAS's accounting. We are so thankful for her expertise in this area and thank God for the gifts that she has in the area and shared with us. Vi decided to step back from the accounting and will continue to mentor women and also lead Bible leads as God directs. Thank you Vi! We appreciate you!!



## What is "Deb's House"?

In case you haven't read past newsletters, after much prayer, research, discussion and planning, the ATLAS For Life Board has prepared a ministry to help single moms! Toward that end, we have purchased a house and renovated it into two apartments, one on the main floor and one upstairs. It is our plan to select two single moms to take residency in our home for a year or so, along with their children, rent and utilities free. We will partner with them in our Brave Beginnings Program encouraging them to accomplish their goals and dreams, preparing them for their life's journey after they leave. Each apartment has a full bath, laundry, central air and a detached garage stall. Because of our generous sponsors, and kind volunteers, the house, at 317 6th Ave SE, has new siding and windows, new electric wiring, and insulation, new heating and air ducts, new floors, walls, ceilings, cupboards and countertops.

Through our Brave Beginnings Program, we hope, at the end of her stay that she will be safe, have found herself an appropriate home to move to, have gainful employment, transportation and childcare.

She will have gained a healthy self-respect and have restored relationships with family and friends to give her a support system. She will have become connected to a church of her choice and given the opportunity to understand the joy of knowing Jesus. It is our hope that the financial help this house will offer will assist many over the course of the coming years. Drug or alcohol use is grounds for immediate dismissal. No overnight guests, and no pets.

### Why is it called "Deb's House"?

It was the dream of our special friend and staff member at ATLAS FOR LIFE, Deb Spronk, to provide a home for women in crisis in our community. After her tragic death in Prague, Czechoslovakia, money in her honor has been set aside toward the fulfillment of this dream. Her special verse for this project was "But I trust you, Oh Lord, I say you are my God. My times are in Your hands." Ps 31:14-15a

### How can I apply?

Those interested in this program, may contact ATLAS for an application, and submit the application along with two references to ATLAS For Life.

### What is the Brave Beginnings Program?

Laurie Westerbur and Stacey Haubrich have agreed to walk alongside our guests at Deb's House, in our Brave Beginnings program which is developed to help single moms along an intense journey that may include assuring her home and family is safe, dealing with legal issues, furthering her education, acquiring additional parenting skills, restoring family relationships, developing a friends and family support base, getting out of debt, finding gainful employment, bolstering her self-esteem and confidence, and finally choosing a place to make her own home.

Jointly with her mentor who visits weekly, we design a passage to solidify and accomplish the goals our guest has made and discover what dreams she has aspired to. Together, we locate activities that will be enriching to her needs, such as: Celebrate Recovery, church, volunteering, education classes, Bible Studies, Alcoholics Anonymous Brave Moms, etc. Our guests will be encouraged to put money she would have spent on rent and utilities into her own savings account. This will help her into the habit of saving a portion of her income for future needs.

### How can I help?

ATLAS For Life is looking for sponsors for those staying at Deb's House. Those wishing to help with the costs of running Deb's House can offer any of the following:

- \_\_\_\_\_ I would like to sponsor a mom and her children for **1 week. \$150**
- \_\_\_\_\_ I would like to sponsor a mom and her children for **2 weeks. \$300**
- \_\_\_\_\_ I would like to sponsor a mom and her children for **1 month. \$600**
- \_\_\_\_\_ I would like to help move a mom to Deb's House or to her new home.

Please pray for those staying at Deb's House.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**A Special Welcome!**



We are excited to welcome **Judy Steuck** who will be helping us with our accounting. We are so excited she is willing. Judy Steuck has recently retired from 42 years of service at First Bank & Trust in Pipestone. While employed there she filled various roles from a teller to a mortgage loan officer. She has been married to her husband, Bill for 43 years. They are members of Christ the King Free Lutheran Church in Pipestone where Judy is one of the pianists. They live on a farm south of Pipestone. They have 2 children and 7 grandchildren. Wendy and her husband Travis Blankespoor live in Rock Valley, Iowa. They have 2 boys, Eli and Jonah. Jason and his wife Amy live south of Pipestone. They have 3 girls, Alyssa, Lauren, and Hailey. Lance and his wife Brittany live near Hawarden, Iowa. They have a girl and a boy named Hazel and Bennett. Judy enjoys spending time with her family and gardening.



### Financial Budgeting Class

We invite anyone that would like some pointers on budgeting and living debt free to come to this class. Many that have attended in the past have testified that they are free from financial stress after learning some of these basic skills. Come join us in September, call to register at 507-562-5777. Time and date will be set according to participants schedules.

### The Gift of Giving

Some ask how they can give to ATLAS:

- Monthly donations utilizing direct withdrawal
- Sponsor a week (\$1200)
- In Memory of or in Honor of
- Amazon Smile: Log onto [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com)... choose ATLAS for Life ministry
- Thrivent Financial
- Estate Planning Giving
- Check or Cash anytime

We appreciate any way you choose to give! We could not do what are called to without people like you! Thank you!

