# ATL Foundation News



***Giving a lift to women in need since 1994***

**2024**

## The ATL Story…….
## A LOOK BACK AT 30 YEARS!

In 1991, a group of friends, who loved to ride their bicycles, were planning a bicycle vacation across Wisconsin. Playing on the naming custom of big competitive cycling teams, they called themselves Team ATL, or Team All Terrain Lesbians. In the planning for this trip, one of the members discovered she had lung cancer and could not go on the trip.

Because she was single, self-employed, and had no family support in Colorado, the informal lesbian cycling group decided to become her support team. The other members contributed time and financial resources to assist through her illness. At the time of her death, there was some money left over. In 1994, the group of friends established a 501(c)3 non-profit with the remaining funds, anticipating there were other lesbians in the community in need of support.

The ATL Foundation provides financial assistance to lesbians in need as a result of a health issue. Over the past 30 years, ATL has held numerous fundraising events. On July 11, 1998, ATL held a Summer Sizzler on a ranch in Berthoud. The first Lesbian Prom fundraiser was June 12, 1999, at The Depot in Boulder. Other events through the years include bowling, wine & strings brunch, bingo, fly fishing, golf events, casino bus trip to Blackhawk, bicycle rides/scavenger hunts, corn hole tournament, lesbian prom, motorcycle rides, and many more!

ATL has partnered with other organizations in some of the fundraising events through the years. Co-sponsors of events have included the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force, The Center on Colfax, The Alexander Foundation, KSL Motorcycle Riders, etc. The ATL Foundation has marched in the Pride Parade and worked in a beverage booth at Pride.

**www.ATLFoundation.org**

Some interesting stats:

- **$4,703.31** – the total assets ATL reported to the IRS in 1997
- **50+** - the total number of board member over 30 years
- **60+** - the total number of Piggy Banks adopted
- **2001** - the year ATL started using Quickbooks
- **$7,185** - the total amount raised on Colorado Gives Day 2023

ATL has evolved over 30 years. The first ATL website was established in 2003, and the website moved to a new platform in 2022. ATL added social media in the past 8 years, to include Facebook and Instagram. From the early days of cash or check at a fundraising event or mailing in a donation check, ATL today raises money through monthly and annual sustained giving, Colorado Gives Day, event fundraisers, piggy bank donations, event sponsorships, and numerous generous donations.

So, why do we continue this foundation? The answer is in the numbers.

Between 2002 – 2013, ATL gave out $404,805 in grants to lesbians in our community. Between 2014 – 2019, ATL gave out $213,316 in total grants to lesbians in our community. That's a total of $618,121 in grants during that 17-year period. Between 2020 – today, that number has grown to over $710,000 in grants to lesbians!

ATL has paid for rent, medical bills, utility bills, new eye glasses, dental procedures, car repairs to continue getting to and from doctor appointments, medical co-pays, prosthetic limbs, wheelchairs, and so much more!

Many of the stories from grant recipients are heart breaking. However, the stories of how the support from ATL has given them a lift through difficult times are priceless.



If you have ever:

- attended an ATL event
- donated to ATL
- volunteered at an ATL event
- sponsored an ATL event
- purchased ATL merchandise
- adopted a piggy bank
- served on the board of directors of ATL

You have made our 30 years possible!!!

ATL is well positioned to help lesbians in our community for another 30 years!

# Finding Grace on the Journey

By Elena Davis, LCSW

As a new board member, I had the honor of doing a phone interview with a recent grant recipient, Dava M., who enthusiastically shared some of her life story and how the ATL Foundation has helped her this past year.

Dava is 74 years young and has been passionate about helping others throughout her life. She shared her passion to help "make life and it's navigation easier" with everyone she encounters. Dava has an undergraduate degree in Psychology and a M.Ed. in Counseling and has working as a psychotherapist for decades. In 2009, she relocated from Northern Virginia to Colorado, following the death of her partner. She has a daughter and grandchildren in Boulder and loves to spend time with them. Dava has been a long-term student of spirituality and mindfulness; In 2012, she became the pastor of a small unity church in Longmont and has supported her congregation through the challenges of COVID, during which several members of the community died. In addition to her pastoral work, Dava also is a talented artist with a love for watercolor painting; her artwork can be found on Facebook and Instagram!

In June of 2023, Dava returned from leading a woman's spiritual retreat in Virginia; she noticed she had some allergy issues during that trip. Coincidentally, that week she happened to read an article in an AARP Newsletter that talked about a new free, quick test to screen for lung cancer. Dava had been a smoker for much of her life, a habit that began at the tender age of 10 years old; this was a time when the dangers of cigarettes were not well known and smoking was in vogue. Dava even recalled as a child going with her mother to a doctor's office where the doctor graciously offered her mother a cigarette and the two of them smoked away right in the office while discussing health! Because of many years of smoking in her past, Dava knew her risks were high. So, even though she had no symptoms, she decided to ask her doctor to do the screening test. Within two days, she had the test results back: a diagnosis of Lung Cancer.

Since the diagnosis, Dava has undergone a whirlwind of constant appointments and treatments. She has undergone constant testing, scans, x-rays, chemotherapy, surgery, more scans, and close monitoring through Rocky Mountain Cancer Center. Dava recalls losing all her hair soon after she started chemotherapy– which she says wasn't actually a big deal to her, as it is to some women when they lose all their hair. Dava chuckled recalling that what was most strange to her was being called "sir" a few times – which she says she was used to sometimes happening to her girlfriends, but not to her!



Dava is profoundly grateful for her oncologist and social worker as well as the rest of the team there. Dava also expresses how blessed she feels to have the support from her family, friends, and even strangers who have shown up for her. She has used the Caring Bridge Website to help her coordinate the help and support she needs with meals and appointments -- as well as to share updates on her medical care. She admits she sometimes struggles with how to write these updates for her family and friends when it is hard news to share; she strives to always recognize the blessings and grace in her life even amidst the ongoing ups and downs of battling cancer and the uncertainty of her prognosis. While her treatment has been successful in many ways, with each appointment with the oncologist there is always the fear of the cancer returning. Dava knows that some folks in her situation have a 5-year life expectancy. She tries not to focus on the statistics but rather continuing to live her life to its fullest as she is able.

For the past year, Dava has struggling to be able to work, pay her rent and to afford her cancer medications and payments for numerous medical bills, as well as take care of her beloved dog "Precious" who needs special medical care as well. In discussing her financial struggles with her social worker RMCC, she learned of a few different organizations that she could apply for financial support through. She reports that one of the organizations had a

# Let's bowl, let's bowl, let's rock and roll!

Time to polish off your bowling ball for the annual ATL bowling tournament!

When – November 9, 2024

Time – 12:30-4:30

Where –

**Arapahoe Bowling Center** –

6850 S. Dayton Street,
Greenwood Village, CO 80112



## There will be lots of pizza and lots of fun!

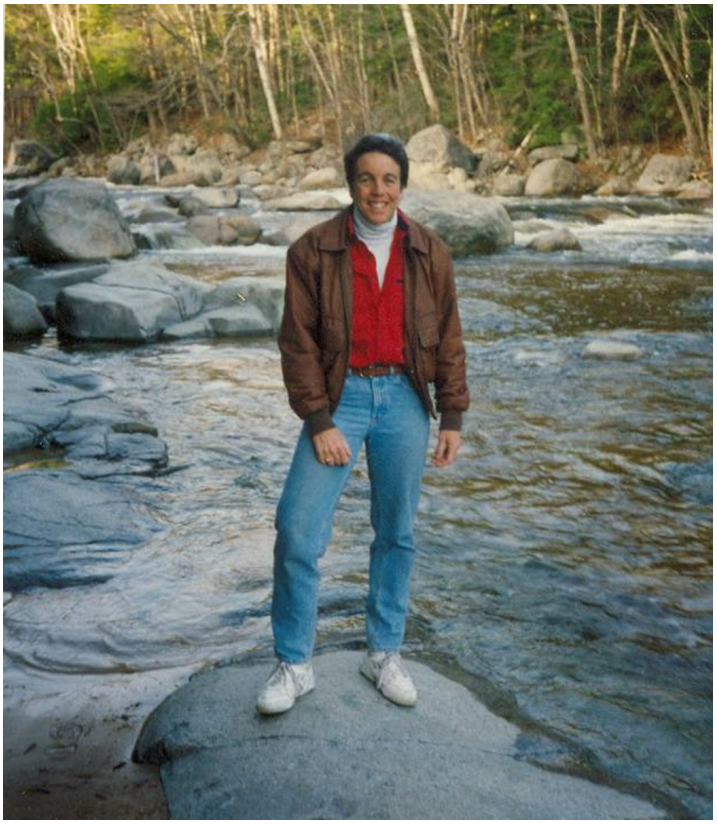
very conservative vibe and she felt worried that if she disclosed being a lesbian that she might be denied support. When Dava learned about the ATL Foundation, and that we specifically are here for lesbians, she was amazed and overjoyed! After moving to Colorado, she says she had not really had a chance to connect with the LGBTQAI community and so to learn about the existence of ATL was a heartfelt moment of gratitude and clear grace.

Dava says that it's "hard to put into language" just what the grant from ATL Foundation has meant to her . . . to know this organization exists "makes my heart swell." Dava said that the phone call she got from Sue to review her application was incredibly kind and comforting. She recalls feeling like it was just like talking to a good friend, the conversation was so "smooth, companionable, gentle and so supportive!" -- and within a few days she had a check to help with her bills!

Dava has Medicare insurance which has covered much of her care, but unfortunately Medicare insurance does max out at a certain point and unless there is a secondary insurance to bill, many are left to foot the climbing medical bills which over a year onward add up quickly and can be financially devastating.

Talking to Dava for this article was such a joy; she radiates compassion, authenticity, and spirituality and you can't help but want to get to know her. After her long career helping others, which has not yet stopped even with her life-threatening illness, it is so fitting that ATL is here to help her through this journey. We look forward to staying connected with Dava as she continues her treatment journey and to provide her with all the support and care of our ATL Foundation community.

**Linda D'Orio**—ATL's Original Inspiration



## Looking back over the years ....











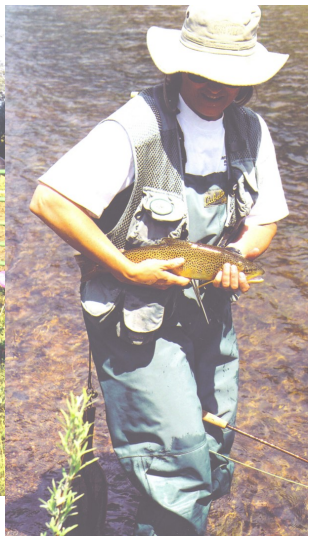





*The ATL Board Members:* ***Sue Boynton*** *- President,* ***Nancy Fritsch*** *- Treasurer,* ***Becky Moore*** *- Secretary ,* ***Kim Kochevar*** *- Vice President,* ***Elena Davis*** *- Grant Coordinator,* ***Meg Sutter*** *- IT Manager,* ***Stacey Beckman, Cindy King, and Rose Doherty***













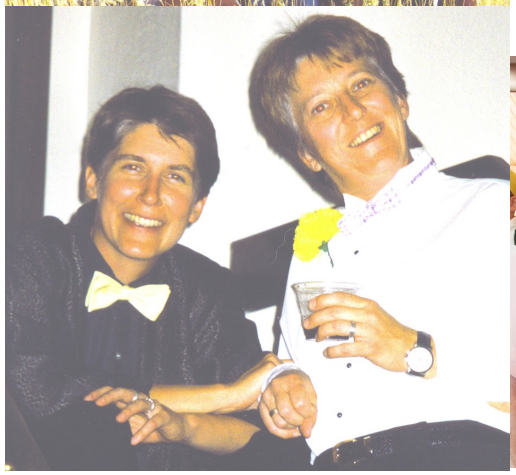


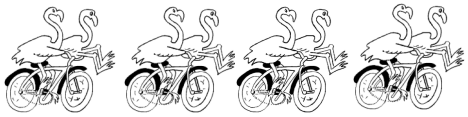
















# ATL Flamingo Bingo Launches 30 for 30 Campaign

*Recent Grant Recipients Offer Moving Testimonial*

By Stacey Beckman

One hundred eager Bingo players packed the house at woman-owned Town Hall Collaborative on March 16th to launch ATL's 30 for 30 campaign.

"2024 marks 30 years of the ATL Foundation giving a lift to women in need," said Board President Sue Boynton. "Bingo has long been a favorite event for our supporters, so we thought it was a good choice for kicking off our 30th anniversary year, and our campaign to raise $30,000 in 2024."

Attendees enjoyed a fun frolic in the relaxed social atmosphere that attends ATL events, with seasoned supporters and ATL newcomers alike, rolling with the mirthful Flamingo Bingo vibe.

The event's jubilant mood became respectfully attentive when a young couple, both recent grant recipients, rose to tell their story of challenges wrought by one of the partner's health complications from long-haul COVID.

ATL's support has helped the couple navigate those challenges, which in this case were exacerbated by car and housing troubles, and other of life's vagaries.

"This illness turned our lives upside down," one recipient said. "We're truly grateful for the support we've received from ATL."

This year Flamingo Bingo brought in over $3,200, starting the 30 for 30 campaign at a favorable launch point. Proceeds from Bingo and all ATL evets support lesbians who have a financial need due to illness.









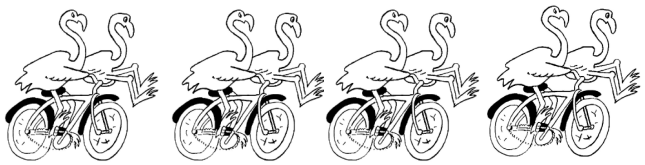
## Elena Davis our Newest Board member—

Elena joined our board in June 2024

Elena is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker with 25 years experience working in mental health and medical social work. Originally from the Washington DC area, Elena has been a member of the queer community since the 1980's and is passionate about social justice, equity, and inclusion. Elena lives with her two teenage children, two rescue dogs, and two cats who do as they please. In her spare time, Elena loves hiking, camping, music festivals, scuba diving, creative projects, and spending time with chosen family.

**ATL Bowling event in November 2023** was a great success. It was fun to have the tournament back after taking a hiatus due to COVID. The event will be held again this year on November 9, 2024, keep an eye out for the invitation. The new location proved to be a success as well because not only did the new location promote our fundraiser but we were also able to lower our expenses for the event. Between the bowling and the raffle held, we raised over $2,000. Thank you for all of the continue support of ATL Foundation!





# ELECTION DAY

## TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5TH

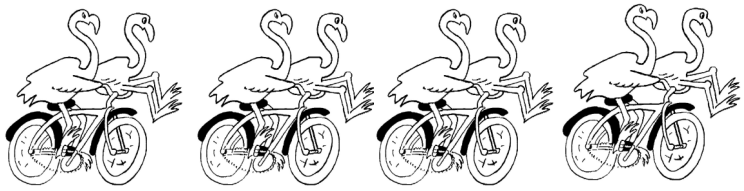
**GET OUT AND VOTE!!**

COMMUNITY FIRST FOUNDATION
COLORADO GIVES DAY
1STBANK Community Partner

**Coloradogivesday.org December 10**




Be sure to Adopt a pig at our next event. We have "Pretty in Pink" and "Show me the money" in clear. Just fill out the adoption papers and the piggy bank is yours. We ask that you toss your loose change in your pig and when she is full, donate the coins to The ATL Foundation. Just bring your Ziplock baggie of coins to the next ATL Event. Be sure to put your name on a slip of paper in with the coins, this way we will record your donation for year-end tax letters. We have found the average bag of coins given to ATL is around $45.00 and every penny helps a woman in need. Give a pig a good home and help ATL!!



***ATL Foundation***
***P.O. Box 17852***
***Golden, CO 80402***

*"Giving a Lift To Women in Need"*

A Colorado 501(c)3 Non-profit corporation

# Don't miss these upcoming Events for ATL in 2024

## 30-year Anniversary Celebration

Join ATL as we honor our donors, supporters, volunteers, event attendees, past board members, and grantees

**Friday, October 18th**,
6:30pm – 9:00 pm
**The Vista at Applewood**
14001 W. 32nd Ave.
Golden, CO 80401
Please register at www.ATLFoundation.org by October 7th

## 2024 Bowling Event

**November 9, 2024**
12:30pm to 4:30pm

**Arapahoe Bowling Center** –
6850 S. Dayton Street,
Greenwood Village, CO 80112

Register your team at our web-site: www. ATLFoundation.org