



ATL Foundation News

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ATL Foundation
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A Christmas Story in February

Once upon a time, there was a group of women friends who got together every Christmas to share the joy and festivities. Every year they exchanged gifts, each year more “stuff” than the last year.

One year, they decided that the stress and pursuit of gift giving was too much for the group. They felt that giving to each other had lost the true meaning of Christmas. So the thoughtful group of women set off to change their Christmas story.

Instead of the usual gift exchange, they decided to have an intimate dinner together and give all of the money they would be spending on the gifts to a charity. As you might imagine, everyone had a different idea of which charity that would be. There were a few charities mentioned and Becky Moore suggested ATL. After trying to decide which charity would be suitable, they voted on which of the non-profit organizations it was to be this year. Well, after voting on the different recipients, guess who drew the lucky straw? The ATL foundation!

Later, much later, in fact in February, the group of friends got together to eat, drink, be merry and pass in their donations. After all donations had been collected, someone casually reviewed the funds and noted that they did not have “an even amount of money” so some put in yet more money. As more money was added to more wine, they continued to add to the little pot and the little pot became a bigger pot until it grew to \$1,500.

Then this informal group of friends presented their gift of \$1,500 to ATL at the Bingo event that very evening. The thankful board of ATL was pleasantly shocked and thrilled by their extraordinary generosity.

Through their unselfish outpouring of charity, these women had written their own Christmas story where women in need receive the true gift of giving.

You may not have heard of **Maimonides** from the 12th century. He was a Jewish physician and philosopher who, among other things, wrote about charitable giving. This paraphrases “The Eight Degrees of Charity:”

1. Giving with reluctance or regret. Gifts from the hand but not from the heart.
2. Giving cheerfully, but not proportionately to the distress of the sufferer.
3. Giving cheerfully and proportionately, but not until solicited
4. Giving cheerfully and proportionately and unsolicited, but giving directly to a sufferer who then may feel guilt or shame.
5. Giving so that the receiver knows the benefactor, but the benefactor does not know the receiver.
6. Giving without becoming known to the receiver.
7. Giving and receiving, with neither known to the other.
8. Anticipating need for giving by preventing need from arising.

If we could rid the world of injuries and illnesses and if we could all function at our highest potential all the time, perhaps there would be no need for charitable giving. But as you read about some of the women who have received grants from The ATL Foundation this year, you will surely recognize how much our community does need your support.

Mark Your Calendar

Our Annual Bowling Event will be held on November 16th, 2002.

Watch your mail for more information.

Reviewing our past

The ATL Foundation has been raising funds for lesbians with exceptional needs due to health crises since its inception in 1994. As a result of the board's introspection and honing our focus, we have more been more active in establishing our presence and purpose in the community this past year. You may have heard one of our members speak at some function, read our previous newsletter, participated in a fundraiser, or seen our logo in a publication. Now we would like you to know just where your efforts and generosity have been of service.

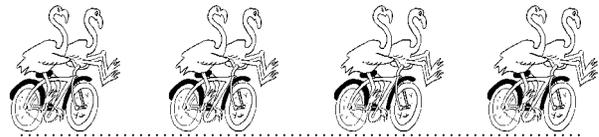
But first let's set the stage for a variety of scenes. You've always enjoyed good health until the driver of that car lost control and you became disabled. You had minor concerns when you were younger due to a congenital disorder, but now that you're older you can't get around. No one in your family had cancer, until you were diagnosed. You've known disability was imminent, but you didn't realize how very long it could take before your benefits would be approved. You've always been responsible, held a job, and paid your way, but now you can't work because of your illness. Some government agencies could help with part of your needs, but not with others.

Any number of conditions and life events can team up to create serious, short term financial need. Medicare was able to provide a wheelchair for a woman with advanced rheumatoid arthritis, but would not provide a ramp! ATL Foundation made it possible for her to get in and out of her van with a ramp so she could leave her house. A woman who suffered the loss of a limb needed very specialized physical therapy. An older woman was managing to make her fixed income benefits stretch and getting herself to her multiple doctor appointments for treatment of a series of degenerative conditions, until the engine died in her car. ATL Foundation paid her mechanic fees so she could continue to be self-sufficient. A woman with advancing symptoms of multiple sclerosis lost her ability to drive and needed a way to maintain some independence and mobility. ATL Foundation was able to help with the expense of a motorized scooter. Recurrence of cancer and multiple limiting symptoms dictated a woman apply for social security disability income (SSDI) when she was no longer able to work, but the process took so long that she was in dire need of cash to meet the rent and doctor's co-payments, so ATL provided the means for her to keep her apartment and continue her care.

These are the profiles of just a few of the people ATL has supported with grants. In all, your generosity has touched the lives of seventeen women in the Denver area during this last twelve months. Because we are very careful stewards of your money, our overhead costs for paper, postage and running events remains lower than average for non-profit organizations at just 8%! We whole-heartedly appreciate your continued support.



Participants of this year's "Spring Swing" golf fund raising event.



Planned Giving

Gifts of cash and other donations received at ATL events are always appreciated. Did you know there are other ways to provide financial support to ATL? The following options not only can be easy but can provide additional tax benefits beyond those of charitable contributions. You may want to talk with your accountant or financial advisor about these tax benefits.

- Gifts of stock via direct transfer
- Name ATL as beneficiary in your will
- Name ATL as beneficiary of a paid-up life insurance policy
- Establish a charitable gift annuity or charitable trust with ATL as a beneficiary
- Name ATL as a recipient of a regular automatic withdrawal and payment

Send any donations to the mailing address on the front of this newsletter.

Note: The ATL board is not qualified to provide tax advice or financial planning.

Thank you!

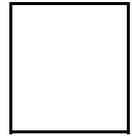
- Joan Andresen and Julie Bernier for their generous donation.
- Pam Babjack for organizing her fly fishing passion into a fly fishing fundraiser for ATL.
- Jean Holland for arranging a dry indoor environment in Boulder for learning to tie those pesky flies the day before we went to the river!
- Ray the fly fishing instructor/guru who taught us all to catch fish at Deckers.
- Computer Journeys, LLC for donating food and cooking a wonderful barbecue on the Platte River for all the fly fishing class members.
- Lesbian Cancer Support Services for connecting us with women in need.
- The Alexander Foundation for sharing with us processes and forms to help reach women in need.
- Metropolitan Community Church for providing a home for our annual Bingo event.
- Sean McVey and Mickey Sanders for volunteering as “bingo callers” to run the event.
- Willoughby Law Firm and the Colorado Business Council for donating the proceeds of “Business After Hours Networking” to ATL.
- OLOC (Older Lesbians Organizing for Change) for helping us identify women in need of financial support in the over 65 year age group.
- Special donations from Mr. and Mrs. Moore, Mr. and Mrs. D’orio, and Mr. and Mrs. Wood.
- Donors of auction items: Rainbow Carpet Brokers, Self Propulsion Bike Shop, Racines, Licks Ice Cream, The Book Garden, Videotique, Good Friends, Le Peep Grill of City Park, The Great Frame-Up, Karla Holt Personal Coaching.
- The spouses of board members who organize behind the scenes or feed us dinner at the board meetings.
- Susan Carabello for facilitating our board retreats and helping us become a more focused and efficient organization.
- Friends and advocates who have helped women in need find us and fill out the necessary forms for assistance.
- Mountain View Golf Course and Rocky Mountain Lanes for hosting our events.
- All those who donated extra money to sponsor a hole at the golf tournament:
 Fran of Coet and Coet Accounting, Home Depot, Magpie Telecom Insiders, Veterinary Management Services, Aperture Art Video, Superior Liquor Mart, Willoughby Law Firm, Sue Boynton and Pat Benjamin of State Farm Insurance, Sheridan Park Chiropractic, and Nielsen Painting.

And to EVERYONE who contributes to, or participates in, our fundraising efforts, we do thank you!





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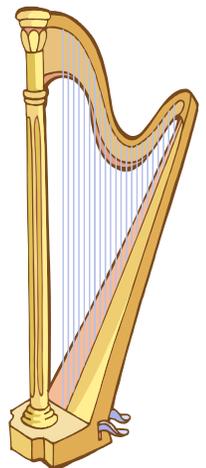


A Colorado 501(c)3 Non-profit corporation

You are cordially invited to join us for
Our Premier "Wine & Strings Brunch"

Relax in a lovely setting and enjoy the rich resonance of the

**October 20, 2002
1:00 p.m.**



- Wine
- Good food
- Champagne
- Good Conversation



\$75.00 per person
All money will benefit the ATL Foundation.

Call 303-424-1207 if you'd like to join us, or would like more details.
Please leave a message anytime. Space is limited so call early.
R.S.V.P. by October 10th.