Where do donations go?

By Becky Brinkman

Her chipper voice and optimism are surprising, considering the history I eventually unraveled from this grantee. On her application, “Stephanie” stated she has severe migraines, seizures, PTSD, and facial paralysis. She has lost her home and can’t work. These facts alone would indicate she needs help. But during the interview process that we conduct with each grant applicant, we learned much more.

Stephanie raised two children on her own after divorcing her physically abusive husband. Life was going along okay. Then one night in 1997, she was severely beaten and raped by a police officer who was in her book club. (He received a 44 year sentence.) After she recovered, Stephanie began working at a rape crisis hot line. Coming home from that volunteer work one night, she was robbed by a man who hit her in the face with a padlock and stole her purse. Her cheekbone was shattered. She lost full sight in one eye and hearing in her left ear and has facial paralysis. Because of her injuries, she was unable to perform her work duties and lost her job.

Stephanie never intended to be in a relationship again, but fell in love with a woman she had worked with at the Dept. of Social Services in 2001. Life was better, until Stephanie was diagnosed with small cell lung cancer (she was never a smoker). After undergoing cyberknife treatment, chemotherapy, and radiation at the Cancer Center of America, she resumed her life. She has been paying off her cancer treatment medical bills monthly for years.

In 2011, Stephanie’s daughter was in a hit and run accident that left her paralyzed. Stephanie moved to another house that was wheelchair accessible, where she took care of her daughter for 18 months. During that time her life partner had a recurrence of breast cancer and passed away. Her paralyzed daughter died two weeks later. At that point, Stephanie lost her home and all of her possessions. She began living with friends, but she was struggling emotionally and physically.

It took Stephanie 3 years from the first time she applied for disability to receive it. She now receives about $1000 per month, enough to help her get back on her feet, but not enough to pay a deposit and first and last months’ rent to get into her own apartment. And that is how ATL helped. We paid those one-time costs for her.

I asked Stephanie how she remains so cheerful and what advice she would have for us. She said she has a strong religious faith, and her parents and life partner taught her to be optimistic. She believes the good in life will always outweigh the bad. Her advice is to treat others as you would like to be treated. And always try to give back.

2016 Bike About Event

Who doesn’t like a little mental challenge while leisurely riding along the Clear Creek and Platte River Trails? The third annual Bike-About gave participants points for answering Colorado and river trivia, taking pictures of wildlife, and racing inflatable flamingos down an irrigation canal.

We try to always choose a flat biking course along a river to encourage people of all biking levels to participate. The length of our rides has varied from 15-20 miles. This year we had 30 bikers, from 12 to 65 years old. It was a sunny, warm day, but cold watermelon was waiting for riders at the end.

Trish Bosak won an adult sized flamingo pool toy for being the fastest flamingo racer. The team of Lynn Johnson, Sherry Pitt, Jan Mineo, and Beth Lindroos won REI gift certificates for having the most correct scavenger hunt answers. (ie. Who was the first person to go over Niagara Falls in a barrel, at what age, what year?? This is excellent trivia you should know!) Check out our website for pictures of this event!
Golfing with the ATL Foundation

ATL’s Chippin’ In Golf Tournament is a biennial event, held every other year, to raise money for the Foundation and – equally important – to have a great time on the golf course with friends. The 2015 event at Hiwan Golf Club in Evergreen was a great success with over 110 players playing in a scramble format. The day began with sunshine and breakfast burritos, followed by 18 holes of golf. Hiwan is a private, members-only golf club which opens up its course on Mondays to non-profit organizations and other private groups for their fund-raising activities.

The ATL Board thanks the volunteers – Diane Sullivan, PJ Warzon, Leslie Linville, and Ronni McCaffrey -who ran the putting and closest-to-pin contests. A special thanks goes to Ronni for her home-made cookies which kept the golfers going and to Deb Cochrane whose photographs reflect the enjoyment of the players and the beauty of the course.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS:
- Susan Boynton, State Farm Insurance
- Dr. Becky Brinkman, Sheridan Park Chiropractic
- Margaret Burd, Magpie Software
- Lynn Castelo, Centennial Leasing & Sales
- Tamara J. Herremans DDS, Dedicated Dentistry
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- Susan Moore & Joy Gosswiller, Gone to the Dogs
- Karen Jessey, ChFC, CLU, CFP, RICP, Wealth Strategies Group
- Kellie Mitchell, Aperture Art Productions
- Barbara Frank & Ronni McCaffrey
- Nancy Kearney

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE WINNERS:
1st Place Team: Vicki Porter, Mary Doyen, Sally Hueston, Sarah Cunningham
2nd Place Team: Tamara Herremans, Judy Berry, Laura Fischer, Donna Ruff
GUY & BI TEAMS
1st Place Team: Todd Towles, Barry Ostroff, Chris Stutler, Chris Marks
2nd Place Team: Sue Boynton, Kim Kochevar, Kathi McCarty, Dennis Gallegos
CLOSEST TO THE HOLE: WOMEN Anne Kelly
CLOSEST TO THE HOLE: MEN Rick Moore
LONGEST DRIVE: WOMEN Denise Dihle
LONGEST DRIVE: MEN Rick Moore
PUTTING CONTEST WINNERS: Dennis Gallegos, Annika Salinas, Todd Towles

SAVE THE DATE: MONDAY, JUNE 26, 2017
at HIWAN GOLF CLUB
Many of us think we have worked hard and done what we could to be successful without giving a second thought to the structural and social advantages that we have by virtue of birth or position. And because most of us associate with those who are similar to us socially and economically, we can easily have a skewed notion of the rest of the population. So let’s check our privilege! Go through the list below and do the math, subtracting your minus responses from your plus responses to get one final score. Compare your score with friends and associates. Then think about the grantees that ATL is able to help, those who are often disadvantaged.

+ raised in a two parent family
+ inherited more than $25,000 in cash or property
+ have a high school education
+ have a college degree
+ someone helped you financially go to college or buy a house
+ have had employer paid health insurance at some time
+ have a 401(k) or similar savings/investment plan
+ have a yard to take care of
+ have traveled outside the USA
+ have a cell phone and computer
- have been raised by someone other than your parent
- have an addiction or a parent who had an addiction
- have had to leave home to avoid violence
- have worked a minimum wage job in the past 5 years
- have obtained health care from free or reduced cost clinic
- have been unintentionally unemployed for more than 6 months
- have a chronic condition or injury that prevented work for more than 3 months
- do not have a checking account
- have a criminal record (aside from traffic tickets)
- spend more than 30% of your income on housing

None of us is advantaged to the exact same degree another is disadvantaged. Each of us is privileged in some ways, and less privileged in others. But those of us who are more advantaged are not diminished by sharing with those who are less advantaged or privileged. Women who need our help through the ATL Foundation are often less advantaged by virtue of birth or position, in addition to accidents, injuries or chronic disease. Small grants from ATL are significant in their specificity and timeliness. Grants allow women a chance to get back on their feet and become self sufficient and overcome some of the factors that hold them back. Thank you for your donations to the ATL Foundation.
GIVING A LIFT TO WOMEN, EVERY MONTH! By Sue Boynton

The Friends of the Flock is ATL’s sustained giving program. These special donors support the ongoing work of the ATL Foundation through a monthly contribution. Giving monthly is good for both ATL and the donor since it provides ATL with an assured monthly intake of donations for redistribution to grant recipients and allows the donor to easily spread their annual gift across 12 months.

A regular appreciation event is held to thank and recognize our current Friends of the Flock members and to cultivate new Flock donors. This year, the Friends of the Flock donors will be given free admission to the Wine Tasting event in August.

We decided to interview some of our longtime Friends of the Flock donors to find out what motivates them to give financially to ATL on an ongoing basis. Marianne McCollum of Boulder said:

“Based on my family’s history, I thought I might have a cardiologist at some point in my life. I never once thought I would have an oncologist. But, I do. After a routine screening mammogram, I was diagnosed with breast cancer. After my mastectomy and reconstructive surgery, I found out the cancer was invasive. My oncologist tells me I will receive treatment for the next five years to avoid a recurrence.

Still, I am lucky. Lucky that we caught it early. Lucky that I have health insurance so I was able to get treatment after the screening. Lucky that I have an absolutely incredible support system and fantastic friends to help me through this difficult time. But, I know in my heart that other women are not as lucky.

As a community, we can help those who are not as lucky. I was giving to the ATL Foundation for years before my own diagnosis, because I have the means and because I know the money is going to women who need it. Through your support, you can help make sure no one is alone or without health care services; especially women who never thought they would have an oncologist...but they do.”

Cookie Barron and Kaye Garms have supported the ATL Foundation since the beginning and quickly became members of the Friends of the Flock when the sustained giving program began. When we asked, “Why do you donate to charities on a regular basis?”,

“We were so scattered and inconsistent in giving it became frustrating. We decided to have a “Board Meeting” (consisting of the two of us!) over coffee one morning! We discussed and made notes about many organizations. We made a commitment to give monthly to four organizations and on a yearly basis to five other organizations and have never looked back. This has worked out beautifully for us, and we have even raised the monthly amounts for three of the four monthly groups. Giving yearly to other groups gives us more flexibility and the opportunity to give more or perhaps less or add other groups at times. Giving monthly is convenient, consistent, easily tracked for taxes, and easily adjustable as needed.”

So, we asked them, “Why do you provide ongoing financial support to ATL?” Their response was: “It was an easy decision to put the ATL Foundation on our “A” list. We are familiar with ATL in all aspects; how, why and when the organization started. Probably the most important aspect of ATL is that the Board of Directors are highly qualified women who volunteer to run the organization. The Board makes sure the bulk of all donations goes directly to those who need help and very little is needed for administrative costs.”

When asked about their personal motivation for donating, they concluded with:

“Our personal motivation would be that we want to give back to our community and hopefully help those in need of assistance in one way or another. We have been so very blessed throughout our lives in that, even though we grew up with little monetary wealth, we were raised by wonderful
and caring parents who taught us ethics, morals and values that are priceless. We are also fortunate that we have had a sixty year relationship and have “kinda grown up together which was not always a cake walk”. We are known, by our close friends, to have conflicting discussions that last perhaps thirty seconds and we go on with life. Our parents gave as much as they could in many ways, and we watched this happen and learned from them. We did not have electricity, indoor plumbing, or running water for years; however, we were happy to live in a small community that provided great athletic programs for girls and boys. Because of those opportunities, we were able to go to college and receive a free education.

We both heard the old adage, “charity begins at home” and it is very rewarding to know that perhaps we are helping someone not as fortunate as us.”

The ATL Foundation appreciates these ladies for sharing their thoughts! Also, we appreciate everyone who volunteers, attends events, gives donations, and spreads the mission of our charity. We have members that give $25 per month up to $250 per month. It is simple to get started by going to our website, clicking on “Donation”, and after entering the amount of your donation, click the box that indicates “I would like to become a Friend of the Flock member and automatically repeat this donation” and we will charge your credit card monthly. For questions or more information, please contact our Treasurer, Sue Boynton, at email: atl@atlfoundation.org.

The ATL Board Members: Becky Moore - President, Sue Boynton - Treasurer, Barbara “B” Frank - Secretary, Becky Brinkman - Grant Coordinator, Nancy Fritsch - IT Manager, Margaret Burd, Bev Walz, Lynn Johnson, Kathy Kelsey, Stacey Beckman and Justine Brown
It's Time to Release Your Inner Pig

The ATL Foundation Announces Fun New Giving Option

By Stacey Beckman

On June 4th during ATL’s annual bike ride and scavenger hunt we launched Friends of the Trough, a new giving option where you will be able to help us help women in our community by contributing your pocket change to Penny Pig, your own personal ATL piggy bank.

ATL’s Penny Pigs come in two fetching styles, opaque Pretty in Pink, and translucent, Show Me the Money. Simply choose your style, fill your pig, and return her to ATL when she’s stuffed with pocket change and ready to help a lesbian in need.

Friends of the Trough is creating quite a buzz so we’ve decided to include these FAQs to help you get started with your Penny Pig.

Q: Wow, I love Penny Pig and ATL’s new Friends of the Trough giving option. Do you girls just sit around all day and night and think up this stuff?
A: Yup.

Q: I think it’s great that Penny Pig will debut at the bike ride scavenger hunt on June 4, but how do I return my Penny Pig once she’s full? (P.S. I’m going for Pretty in Pink; she’s classy. Show Me the Money is such a show off!)
A: Whether you choose Pretty in Pink or Show Me the Money, you can turn your personal Penny Pig in at any ATL event, or you can contact the ATL Board via our website and we’ll arrange to retrieve your full-to-the-brim Penny. Look for a link to “Penny’s Pals” coming to our website soon.

Q: Pretty in Pink is a pretty pig alright, but I also like Show Me the Money’s flashy hubris. May I have one of each?
A: Indeed you may! Two hundred Penny Pigs (one hundred of each variety) recently arrived at the ATL trough, and we are eager to get them out into the community, and into your generous hands.

Q: Earlier you said that Penny debuted at the ATL Foundation bike scavenger hunt on June 4th. I’m more a BINGO kind of gal. Can one of my biking friends pick up a Penny Pig for me at the scavenger hunt?
A: Of course! We only ask that in taking a Penny Pig you commit to returning her, full of course, within a reasonable time-frame that works for you. And if your friend doesn’t follow through, you can get a Penny Pig at any ATL event, or by contacting the ATL Board through our website.

Q: The Friends of the Trough promotion sounds really fun, and several of my co-workers and family members would like to participate. That’s ok, right?
A: It’s better than ok! We love it! The more Penny Pigs that ATL has in the community gathering change, the more we can help lesbians in ill health “change” their lives. One of our corporate donors has already agreed to set a few Penny Pigs out at his office. We think that’s a great idea.

Q: I’m a recent college grad and I enjoy attending ATL events. I really respect and admire the good work the ATL Foundation does for women in our community. I want to be more involved, but I don’t have a job in my field yet, so right now the Friends of the Flock sustained giving program seems a little out of reach. But filling a Penny Pig (I’ll take a Show Me the Money) seems really easy.
A: Thanks for your honest and thoughtful remarks, recent grad. Filling a Penny Pig is easy! At the ATL Foundation we take an egalitarian view of philanthropy: it’s the act of giving, at whatever level, that matters to us. We can’t wait to get your filled Show Me the Money Penny Pig back, and we are glad that you’ll be participating in Friends of the Trough during your job search. Good luck!

Q: Friends of the Trough seems like a cool way to teach my kids about the value of money and the importance of helping others. I’ll take one each of Pretty in Pink and Show Me the Money.
A: Thank you! And we agree with you. Caring about the
welfare of others is right and natural, and Penny Pig is a great way for kids, grandkids, nieces and nephews to contribute and begin to develop a sense of philanthropy’s important role in creating a just and decent society.

**Q:** Hey, I’m a competitive runner and nothing spurs a gal on like competition. ATL should have a contest and track which one of the two Penny Pig types brings in the most money.

**A:** Hey runner, great idea. Look for the “Penny’s Pals” update in our emails and on our website, where we’ll track donations for the Friends of the Trough promotion, and do other cool things like highlight and recognize Penny’s donors.

**Q:** I have a super smart cat who is really conservative with her money. She would like to participate in Friends of the Trough, but was hoping for a calico Penny Pig. Are there any plans to expand the Penny Pig design choices?

**A:** At this time we don’t anticipate adding a calico pig to the line-up. Of course that could change in the future, but in the interim we encourage you to get creative with your Penny! Again, we’ll highlight your efforts and all aspects of the Friends of the Trough giving program through “Penny’s Pal’s” on our website and through our emails.

**Q:** I love ATL’s bike scavenger hunt and I participate every year. This year I’d like a Show Me the Money Pig to ride along with me. Do the scavenger hunt rules allow for this?

**A:** Yes, but to ensure that you and your Show Me the Money Penny Pig start your relationship on the right note we highly recommend that you procure a padded seat for her prior to the ride. Yeow-ch!

**Q:** I’m a competitive Lacrosse player and I agree with Ms. Runner. The contest between Pretty in Pink and Show Me the Money to see which piggy brings home the most bacon seems fun, but we want more.

**A:** Done! How about this: the first ATL supporter who turns in a full Penny Pig will receive free admission for two to the ATL event of her choice during the 2016 giving season. Our events are a blast and a great way to get out and meet new people, or hang out with old friends, while you do something good for women in our community. Remember to keep up with Friends of the Trough by reading your ATL emails and checking “Penny’s Pals” on our website. And look for the regular “Penny’s Corner” feature in our annual newsletter for yearly wrap-ups and new Friends of the Trough initiatives.

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**In loving memory of Linda D’Orio**
“Giving a Lift To Women in Need”

A Colorado 501(c)3 Non-profit corporation

Mark your Calendar

Plan to join the ATL Foundation on -

Aug. 28, 2016 - Wine Tasting
Nov. 5, 2016 - Bowling Event
March of 2017 - BINGO
June 26, 2017 - Chippin’ in Golf Tournament at Hiwan Golf Club

For Details and Registration go to: www.ATLFoundation.org