



ATL Foundation News

Issue 7 , August 2006

ATL Foundation
P.O. Box 740985
Arvada, CO 80006-0985



Location of our Spring Brunch

The Gift by Alicia Fall

As I sat waiting for the light to change, I remember looking in the rearview mirror, thinking, "that's fast," then hearing the screech of tires, then feeling the impact.

As we waited for the ambulance, the young woman who hit me began crying. I asked her name, held her hand, and, as if someone else was speaking through me, I told her things aren't always what they seem. Every accident happens for a reason. On the ambulance ride I kept thinking "there are no accidents," and wondering what this would bring.

From the outside my Volvo didn't seem too bad off, but the adjuster totaled it.....the frame was gone. And from the outside, I seemed fine but the pain continued. I felt like my shoulders had been

...torn. I was unable to work. Not being insured, I had to push for MRI's. Three months later, I got them: a full tendon tear from the right shoulder and a partial tear of the left. A surprise to everyone else but me! But there was one surprise to all of us—an "incidental" finding of a bone tumor embedded in my left shoulder. So therein lay the "gift." "If you hadn't had the car accident, Alicia...."

Now the good news is that it was benign. The bad news is that when there is a tumor in your bone, it usually means there are other abnormalities going on in your body. Five surgeries within five months later, I'm happy to say I am beginning to feel a lot better.

You can imagine how the bills pile up when you're not working. Just paying for everyday expenses becomes overwhelming. You watch your little bit of savings go and you start living on credit cards. You rent out your home and stay with friends while you heal. You explain to your five year old why she won't be staying with you as much over the next five months.

Discovering ATL was a life line. Not only did they help me get back on my feet financially, but Kellie spent long hours helping me fill out medical and request for assistance forms, and both she and Becky listened to my story with full hearts. They gave me support when the medical world was failing me. Sometimes validation means everything to our healing.

Thanks to ATL Foundation, I am recovering nicely, in my own home, with my daughter around. My life is enriched by having met these women. Who would ever have thought such an accident would bring such a gift?



Group that marched in the 2006 Denver Pride Parade



Becky & Margaret ride in the Parade with "friends" on board

*Mark your
Calendar
Plan to join us on
September 9th*

The Advocate
GOLF CLASSIC

Bowling Event
November 2006
Details to come.

Be sure to visit us at www.ATLFoundation.org for information on upcoming events.

Those we help by Becky Brinkman

As the grant coordinator, it is my job to receive applications and interview prospective grant recipients. I hear the stories: the stories of lives put on hold due to hardships from accidents, illnesses, and unforeseen life events. I sometimes hear in their voices the fear, pain, frustration, depression, or resignation about their journeys. But I always hear hope! Hope that with a bit of help life can improve.

Kim needed a wheelchair to remain mobile as MS symptoms advanced. Jane needed diabetic test strips because of severe blood sugar fluctuations, but Medicare wouldn't cover the costs. Sara needed urgent dental care due to diabetic complications of infection. Jan developed rheumatoid arthritis with debilitating pain at age 23 and needed a specialized kind of therapy to be able to continue to work. Teri had a seizure disorder and ended up in the hospital for an extended period of time. She lost her job. She needed help with a car payment and COBRA premiums. Karen was waiting for a bus to go to work when a truck lost control, severely damaging her knees and leaving her unable to work to cover her living expenses.

The voices of the above woman are not unlike yours or mine. They just happened to be lacking resources and opportunity at that moment in time. That is why donations to the ATL Foundation are so important. Donations enable us to provide timely, short-term monetary resources directly to woman in need.

Those We Help Who Help Others

The true meaning of philanthropy is brought home time and again when I hear about the lives of some of our grant recipients. Sue suffered a severe closed head injury when she was struck by a hit and run drunk driver. She was unable to continue work as a public school teacher and part-time massage therapist. But what did she do? She helped Mothers Against Drunk Drivers write a grant and she continues to do public speaking on their behalf.

Jena has been disabled from severe arthritis and diabetes. However, she is a companion for aging nuns at a convent, belongs to a group seeking to connect women spiritually, and is a project coordinator for making sandwiches served in a shelter for addicts and homeless women and children. And she writes inspiring poetry that you may read elsewhere in this newsletter.

So when you give to the ATL Foundation, your dollars indirectly find their ways to spreading the message against drunk driving and feeding the homeless in our state. Isn't that what we are all about anyway- giving in ever-widening circles? Giving a lift to those in need?

*The ATL Board Members: **Becky Moore** - President, **Nancy Loseke** - Vice- President , **Wendy Greenberg** - Treasurer, **Sue Boynton** - Secretary, **Becky Brinkman** - Grant Coordinator, **Margaret Burd**, **Kellie Mitchell**, **Amy Jensen** and **Nancy Fritsch***



We Are One Though Many by Laura Hughes

We begin to share our stories....
one by one;
shattered dreams and hopes
tarnished in the bitterness of suffering and fear;
loneliness and isolation;
longing, ever looking
for love and affirmation;
for deliverance from pain;
incessantly seeking the gentleness of peace;
yearning for some form of healing!

We sat in silence....
having now unmasked our stoic visage;
for in sharing we become one story and as oneness is
breathed upon us
we become aware of how writhing our human frailty
there exists the power of caring....
that incredible connective ligature
binding us as counterparts in tender solidarity;
propelling us to that bold and valiant action....
to simply touch each other's hand!



Body Worlds 2 Fund raising event attendees.

If you received this newsletter via USPS then you are already on our mailing list. However, we are starting to use more e-mail messages as a way to cut costs and keep everyone informed. So, send us your e-mail address at ATL@ATLFoundation.org and we will add you to our new e-mail mailing list (not to worry -we won't share your address with anyone). Thank you for your support!

Friends of the Flock, our sustained giving program, is one year old! Last August we kicked this program off with a wine and cheese reception and over the course of the year we have generated \$10,000 of annual contributions. We thank you!

The purpose of this program is to develop an ongoing stream of contributions, thereby, eliminating the need to rely solely on fundraisers. This is the foundation of any nonprofit organization. Monthly contributions start as low as \$25. Won't you consider helping out those who are less fortunate?

This year, Karen Jessey and Jules Armstrong will host the -

Wine and cheese party at their home on August 17th from 6pm-8pm.

If you would like to learn more about the Friends of the Flock program or just want to come and have some fun, please join us. Please RSVP Karen at 303-741-6181 or Karen@wealthstrat1.com and she will give you directions. Hope to see you all there!



The wonderful entertainment at our Brunch

SPOTLIGHT by Sue Boynton

We never think it will happen to us; we are invincible.

For Tracie Johnson, the news came on October 24, 1997, when she was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis. She has been battling the disease since that time.

Prior to her diagnosis, Tracie was working full time, active in the community, and active in her favorite sporting events, such as softball, skiing, and golf. Ironically, Tracie was very active in fund raising for The MS Society. She raised money in MS Walks and Ski-a-thons.

Tracie worked in a dental office as a dental assistant until 2002. In 2002, when she was no longer able to perform her job duties, she was transferred to the corporate office to do paperwork, and insurance billing. In 2004, she had to quit her job since the MS had progressed to a point that she was unable to work. Since that time, her monthly income has been dramatically limited.

Tracie said the ATL Foundation has given her great support through the last several years. Over the last 7 years ATL helped her purchase special prism eyeglasses, a scooter and later a lift to get the scooter in and out of the truck, batteries for her scooter, and most recently a wheelchair. She said the ATL Foundation has been a wonderful organization for her in difficult times, and she is extremely appreciative of the support from ATL and all of the donors.



Cricket on the road in "The Rainbow Ride"



Cricket Rides for ATL By Becky Moore

Many of us attend fundraising events, or perhaps we participate in our sustained giving plan with our monthly support. And believe me the foundations appreciate every nickel we raise, that we can give back to those in need. On occasion we encounter someone in our community that takes giving to a whole different level.

This June 18th thru 23rd Cricket McFadden dedicated her participation in the incredible 419 mile "Ride the Rockies", or as she preferred to call it "The Rainbow Ride", to the efforts of the ATL Foundation.

Not only did Cricket ride for 6 days over challenging mountain passes such as Cumbres, La Manga and Ponca Pass, averaging about 68 miles a day during record heat. Cricket took it upon herself to gather pledges before the ride. She even called in each evening to give us an update during the ride, that was then posted on our web site. After she finished the ride she called each person who pledged to let them know how it went and where they could mail their donations.

Cricket puts giving into action! On behalf of the foundation I want to take this opportunity to sincerely thank her for the phenomenal effort she has given our community. The checks are still rolling in, so I don't total on all the money Cricket raised for the foundation just yet. But suffice it to say, she sets a shining example for all of us. Again we say thank you Cricket !!



Reaching Out By Kellie Mitchell

So what is "Outreach" anyway? We've all heard the term a thousand times, yet do we know what it really means?

Dr. Webster says outreach is, "A systematic attempt to provide services beyond conventional limits, as to particular segments of community."

At ATL we take as a two part approach to outreach. Part one consists of reaching the women who need our services, and it involves letting these people know who we are, what our mission is, and how they can receive help. Part two means reaching people who are interested in changing the lives of women in need, having a great time and feeling good all the while!

Let's talk about the first part. ATL is a non-profit organization that grants financial assistance to lesbians who have a need as a result of ill health or personal crisis. We are 100% volunteer, with no paid staff and no operating overhead. So, rest assured that every dollar goes back to women in need either directly or as a cost of raising more dollars. Getting help from ATL is simple. All you have to do is:

- 1) Go to our website www.atlfoundation.org
- 2) Download and print the instructions;
- 3) Download and print the application;
- 4) Complete the application;
- 5) Return the completed application to ATL.

If you don't have access to a computer, call Becky Brinkman at 303-450-7311 for assistance and we'll get an application to you.

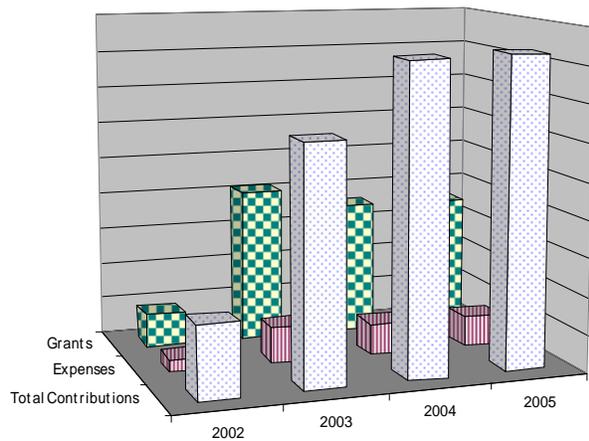
Those of you who don't need our help today, you can change the lives of women by donating directly to ATL through our Friends of the Flock planned giving program (see the Friends of the Flock article in this newsletter). You can also have an impact by attending or volunteering at any one or all of our fun events, or by

making a donation to ATL. To lesbians in need your participation in ATL means food when there is none, heat in the winter, and help paying rent. Your donations cover co-pays for women on fixed incomes and provide wheelchairs and other medical devices when other programs won't. What you do matters to all of us at ATL, and you can be assured that your participation positively impacts the lives of women in need.

Whether you or someone you know wants to give a little support or needs to get a little help, please spread the word about ATL. We invite you to change women's lives!



Year over Year Contributions



It's not often we get to say thank you or to even let you know how your kind and generous contributions effect the women in our community. The ATL Foundation has seen steady growth every year and it's all because of your support!

Your ATL Board works diligently to ensure the cost of our events are nominal and that most of our contributions go directly to help women in need. We are an all volunteer board and do not have any paid staff... resulting in more money going directly to our community.

Please remember that we now have a sustained giving program where you can give monthly or annually. We also now accept Visa and Master Card! Please remember to tell all of your friends about the ATL Foundation and the great support we offer our community. Every penny counts and all of your contributions and support at our events make a huge difference in women's lives everyday! Thank you for your continued support!

For Sale: One of our patron wishes to sell a "Romany" Kayak with all the gear. \$900.00 negotiable. Call 720-635-0207

Advocate Golf Classic

Again this year, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force partners with the ATL Foundation for the benefit of both organizations.

Last year's Classic was incredible! It was a beautiful Colorado afternoon at the amazing Broadlands Golf Course. Players tried for a \$10,000



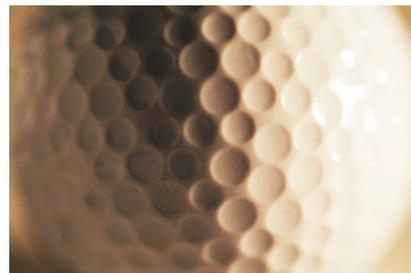
hole in one prize. Other holes on the course offered all kinds of fun prizes and challenges. After the event the players enjoyed a delicious Italian buffet meal followed by a live auction with fabulous trips, golf packages, golf bag, dinners at local restaurants, and a number of other items.

Everyone enjoyed the relaxed environment and the friendly competition. This year is slated to be even better, we have a number of National sponsors with ads running in the weekly Advocate magazine.

Be sure to mark your calendar for Saturday September 9th, with a 1:30 p.m. tee off. This is sure to be the event to "cap off" another wonderful summer in Colorado.

Contact Lindsay Bubar at 310.855.7384 or e-mail her at lbubr@thetaskforce.org, or visit www.taskforcegolfclassic.org to register your team.

Space if filling up fast so don't wait to get registered.



Recent Events of ATL

Last November we enjoyed a fun afternoon of Bowling and this November we will do it again, watch our web site for more details. This March we partnered with The Alexander Foundation for a fun-filled Casino night. Then in April we held our annual Wine and Strings Brunch, it was hosted in a historic Denver home, our host was so very gracious (see her photo below). The Brunch was enjoyed by many, see the photos shown below. In July we were treated by Sue Ware to a special tour of the Body Worlds 2 exhibit. As we work on our upcoming Golf classic the summer hurries by. We continue to help more and more women in our community, we are sure to exceed our grants from last year, which were in excess of \$26,000. We continue to grow with additional outreach programs, touching more lives everyday. We sincerely thank you for your continued support and help. Together we will make a difference, one life at a time.



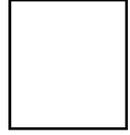
Our Brunch Homeowner and host



Thank you Friends and advocates who have helped women in need find us and fill out the necessary forms for assistance. And to EVERYONE who contributes to, or participates in our fundraising efforts, we do sincerely thank you!

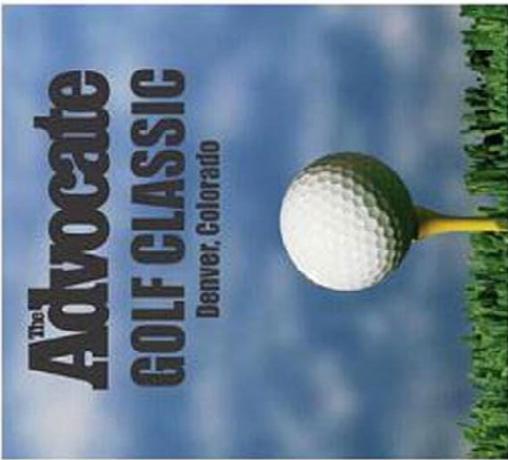


ATL Foundation
 P.O. Box 740985
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*“Giving a Lift
 To Women in
 Need”*

A Colorado 501(c)3 Non-profit corporation



A beautiful course. Exciting competition. A friendly, relaxed environment. This is your chance to enjoy a gorgeous day of golf while contributing to the success of two great organizations dedicated to making a difference.

Saturday, September 9, 2006
 1:30 p.m. tee off

Awards Dinner and Amazing Auction immediately to follow
 Broadlands Golf Course
 4380 West 144th Ave. Broomfield, CO

Hole in One Wins \$10,000

To register, please visit:

www.taskforcegolfclassic.org

Please contact Lindsay Bubbar, Special Events Manager, at
 310.855.7384 or lbubbar@theTaskForce.org for more information

Benefiting



National Sponsors



Hole in one wins \$10,000 !