



ATL Foundation News

Issue 13 , July 2013

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

**Mark your
Calendar**
Plan to join us on -

Aug. 3rd - Bike About
Aug. 9th - Dancin' Divas
Sept. 15th - Boulder
Pride
Sept. 23rd - Chipping in
Golf Tournament.
Nov. 9th - Bowling Event



Your Giving Makes a Difference

By Becky Brinkman

Lisa and Kim have been living a not-so-quiet-life in a quiet, small, northeastern Colorado town for the past 13 years. Besides raising four children together and both working full time jobs, they have been very active in their community. In fact, they met at a church service in 1999 and traveled together as the "Worship Sisters," offering sermons and music around the area. Lisa still teaches an adult Sunday School class and Kim plays the trumpet during services, as well as in a local jazz band. They love sports- particularly the Broncos, Rockies, and women's college basketball and softball.

But as it sometimes does, life threw them a curve ball. In 2010, at 48 years of age, Kim was diagnosed with end stage renal disease, or kidney failure. (She had been aware of the worsening of her familial auto-immune condition for ten years.) She has been unable to work and began daily peritoneal dialysis in February 2011. Of course, their finances have suffered greatly without Lisa's ability to contribute. She is now on disability through Medicare (federal) and Medicaid (state). By being very frugal they can meet their basic needs, but they still had to give up their cell phones, eating out and any travel.

Throughout this hardship, Lisa and Kim have remained active and influential in their/our community. They started the LGBT Northeast Colorado Group in June 2012, meeting every 2nd and 4th Friday of the month for education, advocacy, and support. Lisa is currently a fellow in the year-long Leadership Through Pride program through the LGBT Center in Denver. In fact, that is where she learned about the ATL Foundation.

When we learned of Lisa and Kim's need for tires for their car and a new mattress, we were happy to help. "It was a huge blessing. We cried for joy...we were so happy" was written in the note we received from them. Today, Lisa is still awaiting news of a kidney transplant, having been on the list for over a year and a half.

Thank you to all of you who continue to support the ATL Foundation and make it possible for us to help people like Lisa and Kim.

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

What is a Civil Union?

By Erica Johnson, Ambler & Keenan, LLC

A civil union means a relationship established by two eligible persons, male or female, that entitles them to receive the benefits and protections of spouses, as well as gives them the responsibilities of spouses. The one right that is not included for Colorado Civil Unions is the right to file their state income taxes jointly. If a same-sex couple entered into a marriage in another state, or have established a substantially similar legal relationship in another jurisdiction, they will be considered to be in a civil union in Colorado. However, this does not mean that another state *has* to recognize a Colorado civil union.

What rights will you get if you enter into a Civil Union in Colorado?

Some rights include:

- Right to acquire, hold, or transfer real or personal property as Joint Tenant or Tenant in Common.
- Right to be designated as a beneficiary of a Trust
- Right to be a beneficiary in life insurance, retirement, and/or pension plans
- Right to get health insurance from your partner's employer if they offer such benefits to spouses
- Priority for appointment as Conservator, Guardian, and/or Personal Representative
- Right to visitation in the hospital, nursing home, hospice, etc.
- Right to initiate nursing home complaints
- Right to be an 'interested party' for determining a medical proxy decision maker
- Right to challenge a Living Will
- Right to make anatomical gifts
- Right to inherit through intestate (no will or trust left) succession
- Right to direct disposition of last remains
- Right to have standing to receive benefits under Workers' Compensation Act
- Right to have standing to sue for wrongful death

Partners in a Civil Union will also have the right to sue for emotional distress and loss of consortium. Partners will be able to sue under Colorado's Dram Shop law. This law permits the owner of a bar or restaurant to be held responsible for serving an intoxicated patron that seriously injures or kills someone while under the influence.

You will also have the right for the partner to be treated as a family member/spouse under the Colorado Employment Security Act under certain circumstances.

A few other rights you will gain are:

- Right to designate a party to a civil union as a beneficiary under the state public employee's retirement system
- Right to group benefit plans for state employees
- Survivor benefits under local government firefighter/police pensions
- Right to apply for compensation as a relative of a victim under the Colorado Crime Victim Compensation Act
- Right to receive restitution
- Right to be informed of critical stages of the criminal justice process
- Right to visit partner in a correctional facility, jail (*hopefully you won't need this!*), public hospital, etc.
- Cannot be forced to testify against your partner (*or this!*)
- Right to apply for emergency or involuntary commitment of a party to a civil union

Although, many rights are granted when entering into a civil union, many things will take further action to be protected. HIPAA is *not* affected because it is federal. You will still need a HIPAA medical records release. You will also need a Healthcare Power of Attorney. This is not a right automatically afforded to partners in a civil union. You must name your partner specifically in this document to make medical decisions and to be recognized out-of-state.

A partner in a civil union does not have the legal right to make financial decisions for their partner. A General Durable Power of Attorney is still necessary to convey this power.

If we break-up, can we just decide to no longer be in a civil union? NO!

You *must* dissolve your civil union the same way you dissolve a marriage...through divorce. This means your partner may be entitled to maintenance (alimony) according to the judge's opinion, not yours. The issue of child support and parenting time, property division (equitable, not equal), and awarding of attorney fees is also addressed.

What Federal and State rights are not affected by entering into a Civil Union in Colorado?

- No social security spousal benefits
- No unlimited estate tax transfer
- No unlimited gifting between partners
- Military benefits
- ERISA – governs certain retirement accounts
- COBRA – governs health insurance coverage
- Anything else federal – i.e. Medicare
- Medicaid is not clear yet as it is both a state and federal agency

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Meet our 2 new Board Members - Bev Walz and "b." Frank.

Here is Bev's story -

I was born and raised just a hop; skip away from Colorado in Ogallala, NE. I attended the University of Nebraska; yes I am a Husker fan. Upon graduation I moved to Texas for a year. Specifically I lived in Aggie territory and worked with kids. I returned to Nebraska when my dad's health began to fail. In 1986, I moved to Colorado and have made it my home.

I have spent almost 30 years in public service; working in local, state and federal law enforcement. For the last 24 years I have worked for the Colorado Bureau of Investigation. The last 15 years I have worked in the Investigations Unit as an analyst. My current assignment is working with the financial investigators on mortgage fraud cases. In the last two years, I began to volunteer for activities with high school students. I found this to be a rewarding experience and am looking to do more. I have three nephews so I am anticipating some of the activities will involve them.

Becky Moore, President of the ATL Foundation Board, approached me about becoming a board member. I was hesitant to join as I had never worked with a non-profit and was not sure what I could bring to the table. I spoke with my partner, Nona, who said she thought that was probably the reason that Becky approached me. Of course, I think Nona said that so that she could have a few nights without me! I joined the board during the summer of 2012 and have been enjoying my interaction with the board and those who attended the Bowling Event held in November. I will be the event coordinator for it this coming November. Hopefully I will be able to do as good a job as Becky. I am also working on utilizing the email system a little more effectively.

I look forward to participating and planning events throughout the next year. More importantly I am looking forward to meeting the people that are helping out others who need a lift.



Here is Barbara's ("b.") Story
No matter how far she roams, b. Frank considers Colorado her "heart's home." After growing up in Chicago, b. went east to Wells College in Aurora, New York, to study history. In 1969, following graduation, she teamed up with friends travelling to Colorado. Settling in Denver, b. completed a master's degree in American history and a certification in secondary teaching from the University of Colorado. b. taught English and history at Kent Denver for eight years, including four years as the Assistant Head of the Middle School. Moving to Fort Collins in the late 1970s, b. pursued her other interest earning a master's degree in finance and launching a financial planning practice.



A trip around the world lured b. back to education through an opportunity to lead the International University High School outside of London. Several years later, she moved to the American School in London where she taught 8th grade English and coordinated special projects for fifteen years. It was there that she met her partner, Ronni McCaffrey.

In 2006, after twenty years in Europe, b. and Ronni finally returned to Denver where they found their dream home in an 1888 Queen Anne Victorian. Through this, b. discovered a new interest in historic restoration. With a team of architect, designer and construction crew, b. currently is completing the restoration of a second house which she considers a 'civic duty.'

Since her repatriation, b. has been active in philanthropic projects. From 2007 through 2010, she served on the board of the Women's Wilderness Institute. In 2012, she participated in the strategic planning process for the GLBT Center in Denver. Currently, b. is the trustee and administrator of her family's foundation which supports educational programs empowering youth. b. strongly believes in ATL's mission and hopes, through her service on the board, to ensure that ATL continues to be strong and active in fulfilling its goals. She really enjoys all the women she has met who support and are active in ATL.

A member of the Wellshire Women's Golf Club board, b. is the club's Tournament Chair. In addition to golf, b. and Ronni enjoy a range of activities, especially traveling,

Upcoming Bike-About Event- August 3rd, 2013

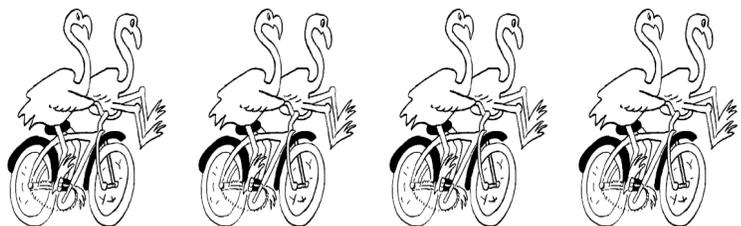
Germans, Poles, Russians, and Croatsians.
Augusta Tabor. Sister City of Denver.
Do you know the questions to the above answers?

While perched on their bicycles, the participants of the first ATL Bike-About were lead on an urban scavenger hunt along the Platte River from the Gravel Lakes park down to REI at Confluence Park. They discovered “What immigrants first settled Globeville? Who was a famous person buried in Riverside Cemetery? What is Cuernavaca?”

Each group of 2-4 bikers was olfactorily inspired to create a short poem about the Metro Waste Water Reclamation Plant they pedaled by. “The water may smell like poo, but don’t worry, after spending time here it will be good as new!”
Bike teams took pictures of themselves with the cash register building in the background. They encountered the bridge to no-where.

We planned this fundraiser ride to appeal to bikers of all abilities and ages. Little kids and little old ladies all pedal pushed. No time limits and no speed awards. It was a gentle “out and back” route along the river: eighteen pleasant miles of rediscovering Denver landmarks, revisiting history, scavenging for answers, and having a jolly good time with friends. And everyone asked for a repeat event again this summer!

Why not join us this August 3rd for our 2nd Bike-About? We are planning a new route, exploring a different part of the city. It will still be appropriate for any age and ability so bring your whole family. Look for details on our website and the pink reminder card we’ll send out later this summer.



Photos from the 2012 Bowling event.



Thank You !!!! Thank You !!!!

The ATL Foundation has been blessed with the support of many people over this last year. All too often, in the hectic pace of everyday life, we forget to thank the people who not only give with financial support but go “above and beyond” to help this organization. Let us take this opportunity to thank each and every one who has donated not only their dollars but also their time. Without you, our mission would not be possible. We can’t thank you enough !!!

Dancin' Divas support ATL Join us on August 9th for an evening of Dancin'and fun!

In August 2012, ATL Foundation partnered with Dancin' Divas for fun and a fundraiser! Susie Pringle is the founder of Dancin' Divas, which meets monthly on Friday nights at the Avalon Ballroom in Boulder for dancing. The evening started with some dancing lessons from Susie, which included line dancing and two-step dancing. Then, the evening was filled with open dancing. Susie donated the proceeds from the August 10th event to ATL, to provide support for our grant recipient, Theresa Bradley. The total amount raised for ATL was \$829.00. Whether you are a beginner dancer or experienced dancer, this is a great monthly event to get out and meet other women in our community. This year we will be doing it again on August 9th 2013, at the Avalon Ballroom in Boulder. Join us for a fun-filled evening of Dancing and fundraising to support the ATL Foundation. See you there!

What is a Civil Union?

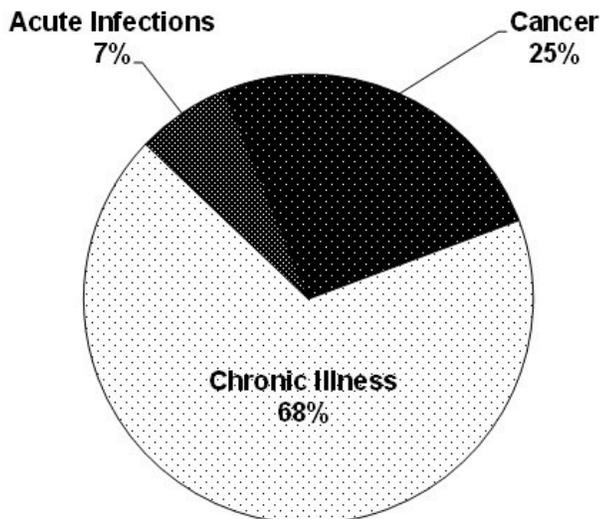
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No right to file tax returns jointly, even state returns. I know many of you are excited about the new civil unions laws. Please educate yourselves first, and take a moment to stop and think of the pros and cons. Thank you.

Reminder: I am only licensed to practice law in the state of Colorado. The information contained in this article is not intended to be legal advice, and should not be relied upon as legal advice. Information is provided for educational purposes only. You can learn more about Civil Unions via my Webinar at www.ambler-keenon.com.



Grant Recipient Condition by Category
2012



Photos from 2012 Bowling event



2013 Chipping in Golf Tournament

Monday, September 23, 2013

Support the ATL Foundation and enjoy a round of golf at the beautiful, private, Championship Golf Club,



HIWAN GOLF CLUB

located in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains.

Cost of \$150.00 per golfer includes the following:

- Greens Fees, Carts, Range Balls
 - Coffee, Breakfast Burritos, Lunch
- Bar snacks, ice tea & lemonade available at clubhouse

Sponsorship Opportunities Available and Encouraged!

More information and registration is on our website at:

www.atlfoundation.org

Don't miss the chance to play this Incredible Private Course - it will be our course for the whole day!



Friends of the Flock

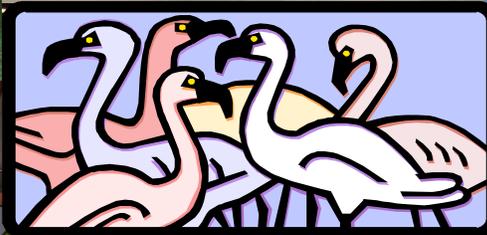
Friends of the Flock is the ATL Foundation's sustained giving program. In the three short years that the program has been in existence it has seen amazing growth. The annualized contributions from this program are now at over \$23,000 per year. These dollars come from a group of individuals who have committed to giving on a monthly or annual basis. The reason that this is so important is that it reduces the amount of stress on the board members to create and put on fundraisers through out the year. The Foundation is currently helping women in our community to the tune of over \$50,000 a year. This amount is increasing every year while at the same time fundraising is getting more difficult. Many people just don't want to go to one more event!

The minimum contribution is \$25 a month.

Won't you consider joining the Flock?

Please call Margaret Burd at 720-201-8500 if you are interested or have any questions. Don't wait to become a Friend of the flock!

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 please sign up using the link on our home page at www.ATLFoundation.org (Don't worry - we won't share your email address with anyone). Thank you for your support!



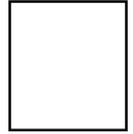
Thank you Friends and advocates who have helped women in need find us and fill out the necessary forms for assistance. And to EVERYONE who contributes to, or participates in our fundraising efforts, we do sincerely thank you! Enjoy these pictures from some of our many events over the years. We couldn't do it without you!

In loving memory of Linda D'Orio

The ATL Board Members: **Becky Moore** -President, **Bev Walz** -Vice- President , **Sue Boynton** - Treasurer, **Nancy Fritsch**- Secretary, **Becky Brinkman** - Grant Coordinator, **Margaret Burd**, **Barbara "b" Frank** and **Carol Kobel**.



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*“Giving a Lift
To Women in
Need”*

A Colorado 501(c)3 Non-profit corporation



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Aug. 3rd - Bike About Event

Aug. 9th - Dancin' Divas in Boulder

Sept. 15th - Boulder Pride

Sept. 23rd - Chippin' in Golf

Tournament at Hiwan Golf Club

Nov. 9th - Bowling Event

For Details and Registration go to:

www.ATLFoundation.org