Accidents Happen
By Becky Brinkman

“When the car came to a screeching halt, my life came to a complete halt, too.

No parenting, no graduate school, no teaching or directing theater, no triathlon, no work.” On May 19, 2017, Sasha was the driver of a Subaru that was hit head on. She suffered a severe concussion and blunt force trauma to her chest.

(The EMTs and ER doctors agreed that had she not been in the well-structured Subaru, she would not have survived.) For several weeks following the injury, she could not feed herself or walk. Her vision, balance, word retrieval, memory and cognition are still impaired. Initially she slept 23 out of 24 hours a day, and had to lay quietly without any stimuli such as television, books, or music for several weeks while her brain slowly began to heal.

Sasha moved here from London about 20 years ago. She was trained in the London Royal Academy as an actress, but fulltime work here in the US was difficult to find. She has been very industrious in supporting herself and her two teenage daughters with several part time jobs the past several years. She is an instructor at the Arvada Center in the education department and was slated to direct a Shakespearean play adapted for junior high students this summer. She has worked as an actress in simulation-lab training for nurses, she substitute teaches in a local school district, and is employed by a TV station to produce the closed captioning for daily news. At the time of the accident, she had just reached the five year mark after breast cancer and was training for a triathlon. She had just finished her first of two years in a masters program in theater education.

Now what does a woman in these circumstances do when visited by such misfortune? According to Sasha, “You have to put one foot in front of the other in order to put one foot in front of the other.” You go slowly and rehab daily for up to a year or more. You return to work on a very limited basis. And you accept the goodness of others! Sasha admits “to be in receivership” has been harder than her usual role as the out-going contributor to others in need. She is overwhelmed by the friends that brought food, helped with her daughters, and took her to appointments since she still cannot drive. She says this entire experience confirms her belief that we are all in this together.

The Denver Actors Fund generously helped Sasha with rent and the costs of daily living for two full months. The ATL Foundation has been able to step in where it left off, ensuring that Sasha and her daughters could pay their rent, buy groceries, and stay afloat for a few more months as Sasha continues rehabilitation and starts slowly back to work a few hours per week. We could not agree with her more when she stated, “The best investment in life is the investment in other people.”

Thanks to all you donors for helping ATL invest in Sasha and her family.
Golfing with the ATL Foundation

By b. Frank

It’s a FUN-raiser! It’s a FUND-raiser! It’s a FRIEND-raiser! ATL’s biennial Chippin’ In Golf Tournament combines all three approaches in gathering its community together. Hi-wan Golf Club’s beautiful setting and the warm summer day enhanced the fun-raising role of the 2017 event. And while the golf tournament is the organization’s top fund-raiser, it is also focused on creating relationships that benefit the community and sharing the ownership of ATL’s mission of helping lesbians in need due to ill health.

This year’s tournament was the most successful yet, with 112 players, 7 volunteers, and 12 sponsors joining together to support the ATL Foundation. Special acknowledgement goes to our volunteers: to photographers Deb Cochrane and Diane Sullivan who captured the fun; to Lynn Johnson, Joyce Klauka, and Leslie Linville who spent 5 hours waiting for someone to sink a hole-in-one on the 8th hole; and to Ronni McCaffrey (the cookie baker) and Janice Villard who supervised the putting contest.

The ATL Foundation is particularly grateful to its sponsors:

- Susan Boynton, State Farm Insurance
- Pam Lousberg, Lousberg Roofing & Exteriors
- Susan Moore, Moore Davis Energy LLC
- Karen Jessey, Strategic Wealth Partners
- Lynn Castelo, Centennial Leasing & Sales
- Tamara J. Herremans DDS, Dedicated Dentistry
- Wendy Levy, Ideal Properties of Denver
- Kathleen Heiney, LINC Golf & Yoga Wellness
- Greg & Karen Howard, CW Elaborations
- Becky Brinkman and Margaret Burd
- Nancy Kearney
- Barbara Frank & Ronni McCaffrey
### WOMEN’S TEAMS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Team &amp; Team Members</th>
<th>Prize</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>57k (on tie breaker)</td>
<td><strong>REO Speithwagon:</strong> Di Nestle, Ceal Barry, Tanya Haave, Susie Helerick</td>
<td>Hiwan 4some – donated by Hiwan</td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>57</td>
<td><strong>Chicks with Sticks:</strong> Robin Walker, Anne Wesley, Kathryn Ford, Kim Ware</td>
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<td>3rd</td>
<td>59</td>
<td><strong>Ideal Properties:</strong> Vicki Porter, Mary Doyen, Jill Kirkpatrick, Juna Orr</td>
<td>$30 Hiwan gift card / player = $120</td>
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<tr>
<td>4th</td>
<td>61</td>
<td><strong>4-Fore Fun:</strong> Claire Orner, Elle Nee, Kate Cunninghamham, Susan Kennedy</td>
<td>$25 REI gift card /player = $100 (donated by ATL)</td>
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<tr>
<td>5th</td>
<td>61</td>
<td><strong>Team Klinge:</strong> Patti Klinge, Connie McArthur, Claudia Gray, Becky Sharp</td>
<td>$20 Hiwan gift card /player = $80</td>
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### GUY & BI TEAMS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Team &amp; Team Members</th>
<th>Prize</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>MSU Go Bears!</strong>: Margaret Burd, Mike Oldham, Sophie Pierpoint, Tim Foote</td>
<td>$50 Hiwan gift card / per player = $200</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

#### CLOSEST TO THE HOLE #12: MEN
- Craig Doolittle
  - $25 REI gift card

#### CLOSEST TO THE HOLE #8: LADIES
- Jo True
  - $25 REI gift card

#### LONGEST DRIVE #17: MEN
- Tim Foote
  - $25 REI gift card

#### LONGEST DRIVE #4: LADIES
- Carla Stearns
  - $25 REI gift card

#### PUTT CONTEST
- Tanya Haave (in the hole!)
  - $25 REI gift card

A Special THANK YOU to Deb Cochrane and Diane Sullivan for all the wonderful photos of the Golf Event!!

Don’t Forget you can support ATL on Colorado Gives Day—December 5, 2017
Just search for ATL Foundation and make your donation. Thank you!!
Wine, Women, Song and Fun!

By Lynn Johnson

Who knew that Malbec could have notes of violets or that Chardonnay could have juicy fruit aromas? The bending of elbows and the sipping of wines were the focus of activity at the first ever wine tasting garden party held in late August last year at the beautiful home of board member b. Frank and her wife, Ronni. Ninety supporters of ATL gathered on a beautiful late summer evening to chat and test their wine knowledge with a blind taste test of white and red wines from around the world. Members of our sustained giving program, Friends of the Flock, were our honored guests. Several recipients of ATL grants spoke to the group about their experiences, while Paula Verdicchio provided entertainment throughout the event. Many thanks to our sponsors - Lynn Castelo at Centennial Leasing and Sales, Kristy Tochihara and Noel Culberson at Trailhead Wealth Management and Sue Boynton from State Farm Insurance. Stay tuned sometime in 2018 for our next event.

In Memoriam

We lost a special friend of ATL this past year. Years ago, Jan Autrey helped ATL revamp our website. Since then, she has been a volunteer at the bowling event several times and has been a long time Friend of the Flock with her wife, Marianne.

She has been missed by so many, as well as the ATL community. In February 2017, ATL joined The Boulder Center for Conscious Community, of which she was very involved, and held the 1st annual Jan Autrey Memorial Texas Hold 'Em Tournament. It was a fun night of poker and community, while sharing stories about our friend, Jan. She's woven into the fabric of the ATL Foundation and will never be forgotten.

The ATL Board Members: Stacey Beckman - President, Becky Moore-Vice-President, Sue Boynton - Treasurer, Barbara “B” Frank - Secretary, Becky Brinkman - Grant Coordinator, Nancy Fritsch - IT Manager, Margaret Burd, Lynn Johnson, and Kathy Kelsey
Introducing ATL’s New Board President
Stacey Beckman

Civil rights attorney, law professor, multi-generational Coloradoan and long-time ATL Foundation fan and supporter, Stacey Beckman joined the ATL Board with a glad heart in 2016. She currently serves as ATL Board President.

Stacey attended her first ATL event in 2003, and became smitten with the organization at the outset. In the intervening years she participated and volunteered many, many times in the bowling, BINGO, biking, golf and brunch fund raising events. After years of pestering the ATL Board to revive BINGO, she is pleased, at long last, to be able to ensure that ATL’s bi-yearly BINGO event stays vibrant.

Stacey earned her law degree from the University of Denver, College of Law, and received her undergraduate degree from the University of Alaska, Anchorage where she played NCAA Division I basketball on a full-ride athletic scholarship. She was graduated cum laude from UAA with a major in Justice, and a minor in Journalism and Public Communication.

Along with philanthropic pursuits, Stacey enjoys writing, and reading literature that has withstood the test of time. And though her middle-aged knees are beginning to protest, she still regularly plays basketball.

Grant Recipient Condition by Category
2016

- Accidents/Seizures: 38%
- Diabetes: 27%
- Chronic Illness: 19%
- Acute Infections: 15%
- Cancer: 6%
Bringing Home the Bacon for ATL

**ATL’s Friends of the Trough Giving Program Turns One, Brings Change**

*By Stacey Beckman*

Penny Pig welcomes all Friends of the Trough, all want-to-be Troughies, and all of those who are Trough curious to our 2017 edition of Penny’s Corner. Once again we are pleased to open this forum so Penny Pig can respond to your Friends of the Trough comments and questions, and bring you up to date on Trough news.

In just over a year since its inception, the ATL Foundation’s Friends of the Trough giving program has raised over a thousand dollars from pocket change donations for women in need. Big pig thanks to all of you ATL pig parents who have made Friends of the Trough successful with your consistent and kind generosity. Your pocket change matters and makes a difference for the women in our community who have been pushed into financial hardship because of medical issues.

And there’s more good news from the ATL pig pen: when Friends of the Trough piggy bank donations are coupled with event day contributions collected by our roving event pig, that amount is well on its way to pushing toward two thousand dollars. Bravo, and thanks to all of you who contribute so open-heartedly to the event pig at our gatherings.

As always, we are grateful for your thoughtful and generous engagement with ATL and we are pleased to once again open Penny’s Corner to your comments and questions.

**Q:** I think Friends of the Trough is a great idea, and I’ve been intending to join since you announced the program in this space a year ago. I guess that makes me a Troughie wanna-be. How can I join? How much does it cost for me to adopt a Penny Pig?

**A:** Welcome, wanna-be, and thanks for your sustained interest in Friends of Trough. Becoming a Troughie is easy. ATL’s Penny Pigs are available for adoption, free of charge, at all of our events. Fill out a short adoption form (it takes about twenty seconds), name your pig, take her home, and return her to ATL when she’s filled with change. It really is that simple. You can bring your well-fed pig to any ATL event, or contact an ATL Board member through our website and we’ll arrange for you to return your full pig.

**Q:** Wow; that is easy. I guess the time has come for me to turn my inert interest into action. When is the next event?

**A:** Wanna-be, you’ll want to mark your calendar for bowling on November 11th, and plan on picking out your personal Penny Pig on that day. If you want to adopt a Penny Pig before then, reach out to the ATL Board through our website and we will ensure that you get an ATL Penny Pig.

**Q:** It really doesn’t cost anything to adopt an ATL Penny Pig? Really? Pardon me for being pesky, but aren’t you gals missing out on a fundraising opportunity by giving those cute Penny Pigs away?

**A:** Great question pesky! Our wonderful ATL supporters do tend to drop donations into our event pig, who sits at the piggy bank adoption table at ATL fundraising events, but that is not a pre-requisite to adopting a Penny Pig. We don’t charge an adoption fee for our Penny Pigs because we want to get them out to the community, and into the homes and offices of our generous supporters. The expectation is that Friends of the Trough pig parents will return their Penny Pigs to ATL when they have filled them with pocket change. We don’t charge a fee to make a donation!

**Q:** Friends of the Trough sounds really cool, and it seems like an easy way to give, but I don’t get much pocket change. If I join, can I put currency in my Penny Pig and return her that way?

**A:** Of course! We want you to do what is easy for you. In fact, many Friends of the Trough return their piggy bank currency proceeds via check, and keep their pigs to fill, refill and fill again and again. We love this approach!

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**Q:** So bills fit into Penny Pig?

**A:** Yup. Just ask our wonderful golfers, who stuffed hundreds of dollars, mostly in currency, into our event pig at the Chippin’ In Golf Tournament in June.

**Q:** Wow! Yay golfers!

**A:** Yay golfers indeed. This summer they broke the event pig donation record that the bowlers had held for nearly a year. It was an exciting day for Penny Pig and ATL. We can’t say this enough: the women and men who contribute to ATL via Friends of the Trough really are a special group of caring, conscientious people. We are so grateful that your generosity enables us to help lesbians in need.

**Q:** One of my friends told me that after she fills her Penny Pig with coins, she has her bank tally the proceeds with their coin counting machine, and then she writes a check to ATL for that amount. Is that OK?

**A:** You bet! Several Friends of the Trough participants approach their Trough giving in this way. They simply mail in their checks, or turn them in at the pig adoption table at events. They keep their pigs and fill them again and again. We love this mode of donating Penny Pig proceeds. We want Friends of the Trough to be enjoyable and easy for our supporters.
Q: Penny, what is all this noise I’m hearing about an event pig? Who is she, where did she come from, and what does she do? I don’t remember reading about her last year at Penny’s Corner.

A: Great question reader. Two Board members first spotted the event pig sniffing around the pizza and filching popcorn during last year’s bowling event. Rather than having the poor beast hauled away for pizza pinching and popcorn pilfering, ATL opted for benevolent rehabilitation. All parties agreed quickly that the offending pig could best improve her socially noxious ways by volunteering at ATL events to meander, look cute, and collect event-day donations. Thus the event pig, and a fun new event-day giving dimension, was added to Friends of the Trough.

Q: Love it! You’ve turned a pizza pincher into a productive member of society. But shouldn’t the event pig have a name? On the ATL website at Penny’s Pals, I’ve read some great profiles of Friends of the Trough donors, and laughed out loud at the hilarious and clever names that Troughies come up with for their pigs. Why should the event pig miss out on the naming fun? ATL should have a contest to name her! And the winner should get a great prize!

A: That is a terrific idea for this year’s Friends of the Trough contest Ms. Love it. What should we name the event pig? Submit your ideas on our website or let a Board member know what you think. We’ll look at all submissions and vote on the winning name. The ATL supporter whose suggestion is selected will receive two free entries into the ATL event of her choice during the 2018 giving season.

Q: Speaking of Friends of the Trough donor profiles at Penny’s Pals, are you going to be doing more interviews soon? I really enjoy reading about the fun, funny and heart-warming ways that pig parents integrate their Penny Pigs into their personal approaches to philanthropy.

A: Yes! We love talking to our Friends of the Trough donors, and hearing their pig tales too. Look for us at the bowling event, or drop us a line at our website and let us know that you’d like to tell us about your experiences as a Friends of the Trough donor.

Q: It sounds like there will be lots of fun stuff going on at bowling. I guess I better dust off my bowling ball and spiff up my bowling shoes for the big day.

A: Please do! November will be here before you know it, and our events are a great way to relax and catch up with friends while you do something fun that also creates a great source of relief for women in need. And remember to stay connected to the Trough through our monthly email notices and Penny’s Pals on our website.

In Memoriam

Long time friend and grant recipient Tracie Johnson died on July 19, 2017, from complications of multiple sclerosis, at the age of 57. Tracie was first diagnosed with MS in 1997, although she had faint, unidentifiable symptoms of the disease even during her outstanding athletic career at NE State University of Oklahoma, where she was a revered fast pitch pitcher and third baseman. Later she became an expanded duty dental assistant (EDDA) in Boulder. It was during this career that she began to have serious vision and mobility problems, which lead to early disability.

As Tracie’s condition advanced, the ATL Foundation was able to respond to her increasing needs for physical support across many years. ATL contributed to special eyeglasses, bought her walker and first wheelchair, provided a power lift to allow her access into a special van, helped with medical co-pays, built a ramp into her home, and improved access within her home. Tracie’s mother, Nita, had been her primary caregiver until Tracie was confined to a nursing home, needing advanced care for her feeding tube. At Tracie’s death, ATL was there to support Nita with end of life expenses.

Those who knew Tracie well all remarked on her wit and cheerful spirit, even when MS had stolen her voice. We will remember her “dancing” with friends in her wheelchair at the ATL fundraiser at Howl at the Moon just two years ago. She was inspiring to so many of us whose lives have been much easier. She is mourned by her family and a large community of friends. Thanks to all of you who helped Tracie and her mother through your ATL support.
2017 ATL Bowling Event
Saturday, November 11, 2017
Brunswick Rocky Mountain Lanes
9150 Harlan, Westminster, CO
Check-in begins at 11am. Bowling from 12-3pm

$45.00 Per Person
Includes shoes, and three games.
Awards and food will follow in the Lounge.

Register online at
www.ATLFoundation.org
(Teams are limited to 4 per lane)

Thank you for your support of the ATL Foundation