



*A Chance for Change*

**1975 – 2005**

**2004-2005  
ANNUAL REPORT**

Dear Friends of Atkins House,

I want to thank you all for your generous support of our programs through the 2004-2005 fiscal year. Through the contributions of our donors, big-hearted volunteers, and dedicated staff as well as Board of Directors Atkins House is now in its 30th year of providing women with "A Chance for Change".

This past January Sandy Grove, Associate Director, represented Atkins House in Phoenix, Arizona at the American Correctional Association Winter Conference where she was officially presented with our American Correctional Association Accreditation Award. This was the culmination of a great deal of hard work that resulted in our being found in 100% compliance with ACA mandatory and non-mandatory standards.

Atkins House finally made it into the 21st century by upgrading to internet access via cable. Now all staff have access to email which results in better communication with parole agents, regional office staff and Family Health Council staff.

We would like to thank April Kauffman for organizing the Atkins Angels Program. The program provides welcome bags to our residents and is further involved by volunteering in the lifeskills program. I would also be remiss if I didn't take the time to thank Seth Noll and Kinsley Construction for their continuing support of Atkins House. Seth's influence can be found in freshly painted walls, new countertops and numerous other projects.

Jennifer S. Raffensberger, President  
Atkins House Board of Directors

## **Annual Report of the Executive Director 2004-2005**

Atkins House had a total of 38 residents in our program this past year. Thirteen of those residents were still in the program at the end of the fiscal year. We had 23 successful completions during the year. None of the residents who successfully completed were returned to prison for parole violations or committed a new crime. Of those who did not complete successfully, 2 were returned to prison for a parole violation. Funding for the residential program comes from a contract with the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections.

During the past year we saw 72 clients for individual counseling in our out-patient program here at Atkins House and at the prison. We held two treatment groups per week, relapse prevention and relapse prevention for criminal behaviors at Atkins House and one relapse prevention group per week at York County Prison. Residents also attended one lifeskills group per week and one HIV/AIDS Education/Prevention group per week. Pre-tests and Post-tests were used for all groups. We started a new drug and alcohol intervention group at York County Prison during the year. Funding for our drug and alcohol counseling program was provided by York/Adams Drug and Alcohol Programs, the PA Department of Corrections and Community Care Behavioral Health. Sexual abuse counseling and mother/child family counseling was funded by individual contributions from the community.

The lifeskills program was presented at the prison twice weekly during the year. Dr. Carol Peck, a volunteer also held two poetry writing workshops at the prison during the year. The booklets of poetry have been put on our website, [www.atkinshouse.org](http://www.atkinshouse.org).

Our HIV/AIDS Prevention/Education group program was delivered to 159 women at York County Prison and 38 women in our residential program. Individual risk reduction counseling was delivered to 146 clients at the prison and at Atkins House. Seventy-eight percent of clients who participated in the risk reduction counseling reported a reduction in high-risk behaviors. Funding for this program was provided by The Family Health Council of South Central Pennsylvania.

Susan Baugh  
Executive Director

## **American Correctional Association Accreditation of Atkins House**

The audit for accreditation was conducted on October 18 – 19, 2004. Atkins House staff had to document compliance with policies and procedures for each of the 244 standards that the Commission on Accreditation for Corrections developed for Community Correction facilities. The staff had to work together as a team to ensure that the physical components of the facilities were neat, clean, organized, and repaired.

Auditors Mary Lou Ritter and John Hurla arrived at the facility on Wednesday October the 18<sup>th</sup> to begin the process. Initially, they toured all three buildings that Atkins House owns (305, 307, 311, & 313) accompanied by Sandy Grove, the Accreditation Manager. After the tour was completed, the auditors reviewed the individual folders pertaining to each standard. As a component of the audit, they interviewed staff and residents.

Of the 244 standards, 210 were non-mandatory and 34 were mandatory. In order to achieve the status of an accredited facility, we had to be in 100% compliance with the mandatory standards and a minimum of 90% compliance with the non- mandatory standards. We achieved 100% in the mandatory standards and 100% in the non-mandatory standards; certainly an achievement to be proud of. The Auditors commented that this score puts Atkins House in the elite among community corrections facilities in the United States.

The auditor's submitted their results to the American Correctional Association Commission on Accreditation. In January of 2005, at the Winter Conference of the American Correctional Association & Commission of Accreditation for Corrections, in Phoenix Arizona, a panel held a hearing with Sandy Grove. By a unanimous vote, the panel determined that Atkins House should be accredited. Sandy Grove accepted the Certificate of Accreditation on behalf of the Board and Staff of Atkins House. The certificate is on display in the residential building at 307 East King St.

Sandra Grove  
Atkins House Associate Director

## **Atkins Angels**

Atkins' Angels is an outreach program from the Young Adult Ministry of Living Word Community Church. It has been created to serve as an accent to all of the great programs that are already in place at Atkins House. We are small group of five core team members. There are other members who do not do any 'hands-on' activities, but have been instrumental to Atkins' Angels existence. Atkins' Angels is a non-denominational Christian outreach, but we are not there to judge, condemn, or to force God on anyone. We are here to give joy, share knowledge, and to celebrate this next part of the women's lives.

We offer optional classes, spend time with the women, share our experiences, and offer support and lots of encouragement to further ease the transition from Atkins House to the next phase of their lives. We also offer time to pray with any woman who is interested. The classes are voluntary and take place on Thursday nights as part of the Life Skills program. They pick the classes that appeal to them. In addition to classes, we also are planning to do other activities like picnics, help in the backyard and garden, have movie nights and beauty days, seasonal parties, etc...

Since May of this year, we have attempted to have a weekly presence at Atkins House. We started off with Saturday morning walks, then progressed to tennis at a local park. The women that signed up for the walks and tennis had a great time! There was lots of laughter, and it was a nice physical outlet for them. We also do monthly eyebrow waxing and have conducted three classes thus far: a class on skin cancer/tanning/aging; a first-aid class; and a nutrition class. All three classes were attended by a small number of women. We all learned much about the subject, and each other! We were pleasantly surprised by how savvy some of the women were about these subjects already. We could then explore our class subject a bit deeper which they appreciated.

Atkins' Angels has started out small and slowly. It is an outreach program that we hope will be in existence for many years. We will never truly know what kind of an impact we are making, but it has the potential for reaching far into generations to come! This first year was definitely spent "getting our feet wet". Being a brand new program, we used these first few months to assess needs, learn about the house dynamics, and plan for next year. We plan on having many more activities and classes. Because our core team currently is small, we are limited, but we are anticipating more members stepping up to have a more active role in Atkins' Angels.

It is our hope and prayer to build a wonderful relationship with the residents. They are a blessing to us, and we want to be a blessing to them. Everyone is a little bent and broken, and everyone needs and craves love and encouragement. Atkins' Angels exist to provide that love and encouragement by sharing faith, and demonstrating the love of God that dwells in our heart.

April Kauffman  
Atkins House Board of Directors

*The mission of Atkins House is to provide opportunities for the woman offender to develop her potential for a responsible, productive and law-abiding life.*

Atkins House has a success rate of 96% in changing the lives of women offenders and helping them reunite with their families and lead productive lives. Women offenders can change their lives, remain crime-free, drug and alcohol free and stay employed in our community. Their "chance for change" is greater with the on-going support services offered by Atkins House.

***Atkins House  
Board  
of Directors***

Jennifer Raffensberger, President  
Kelly McNeal, Vice President  
Barbara Bittner, Treasurer  
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Judy Waltman-Baccon, Building & Grounds  
Melissa Garrett  
Leticia Giese  
April Kauffman  
Heather Maxfield

***Atkins House  
Advisory Board  
Members***

Ms. C. Kim Bracey  
Chief Buffington  
Dr. David Hawk  
Ms. Sylvia Hepler  
Mr. Seth Noll  
Captain Lisa Olmeda  
Detective Jeff Spence  
Ms. Sandy Sutherland  
Deputy Warden Roger Thomas  
Special Friends of Atkins House  
Representative Steve Stetler  
Robert Kinsley  
The Freas Foundation

## **Atkins House Staff Members**

Susan Baugh, Executive Director  
Sandra Grove, Associate Director  
Valerie Alwine, Administrative Assistant  
Julie Martin, Resident Assistant  
Mary Dorm, Residential Administrative Assistant  
Betty Griffith, Staff Aide  
Karen Washington, Staff Aide  
Sandra Sipe, Staff Aide  
Jamia Kinnard, Staff Aide  
Rose Matthews, Staff Aide  
Cheryl McClane, Staff Aide  
Matthew Grove, Facilities Clerk  
Thomasine Russell-Adams, Clinical Supervisor  
Rebecca Sheetz, Counselor  
Lorene Brenneman, Treatment Secretary  
Jodi Schmidt, HIV/AIDS Prevention/Education Coordinator

## **Atkins House Treatment Hours**

**Monday, Tuesday & Thursday – 9:00 AM to 8:00 PM**  
**Wednesday – 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM**  
**Friday – 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM**  
**Other Hours by Appointment**

**Copies of the Annual Report and the Annual Audit Report are available  
to the public at 313 E. King St.**

**Visit our website at [www.atkinshouse.org](http://www.atkinshouse.org).**  
**Developed , hosted and managed by The Gilman Group Full Service  
Web Presence Providers.**