



A Chance for Change

1975 – 2007

**2006-2007
ANNUAL REPORT**

A STORY FROM A FORMER RESIDENT OF ATKINS HOUSE

April 15, 2000, I was in a very bad car accident. I was driving home from a bar with two friends in my vehicle. We were all very drunk and none of us should have been driving. I missed a curve and wrecked the car. My front passenger had a few cuts and scrapes and I was hospitalized for a few days. My back seat passenger died.

A year later I was sentenced to 2 to 5 years in prison with the option of going to Boot Camp and getting out early. I opted to try boot camp. I spent two months in York County Prison, went to Muncy State Prison for two months and then went to spend 6 months in Quehanna Boot Camp. I thought wow! This will be great! No cells, no fences, a lot of exercise to get me in shape and I would be out of there in 6 months and back home with my family!

Boot Camp was Cruel with a capital C. I think I cried every day I was there. The officers were rude, obnoxious and ridiculed me everyday. They would ask you what your crime was and when they found out the officers would throw it in your face all the time. I was called a murderer, a drunk, a waste, no good, etc. Their plan was that they broke you down and then built you back up. They forgot the build your self esteem back up part. (There were some officers that were nice and I was able to talk to some of them, but for the most part they were very cruel.)

After 6 months of torture (mostly mental) the physical part was hard but that wasn't the cruel part, I was very hateful and didn't care what anyone had to say to me. I didn't want help from anyone and just wanted to go my own way and not hear anyone else tell me what to do.

I found out about 5 months into the Boot Camp program that I would have to go to a halfway house after I got out of Boot Camp. We had been told we would go to Boot Camp and then be paroled. I was angry that they had changed the rules. The only good part was that the halfway house I was going to was in my home town.

I was not a happy camper when I came to Atkins House. I was very hateful and didn't want to hear anything they had to say to me. I thought I knew it all and I had been through enough where I had just come from. They wanted us to go out and find a job. I was not happy about this. I had my own business at home but was not allowed to go there to work. Why did I need to look for a dumb job when I already had one? I was not going to stay at a job longer than I had to. Atkins House arranged for me to work on my own company books at a CPA's office. We had to go to AA groups everyday. I didn't need help! I wasn't an alcoholic! We had to take life skills classes at Atkins House. I had a life! I already owned my own home, vehicle and business. Why were they doing this to me!! Hadn't I been through enough???

Susan and Sandy tried numerous times to talk to me, but I just didn't want anything to do with them. Because of my attitude I was almost sent back to prison. That was a huge wake up call. That was the last place on earth I ever wanted to go back to. I finally understood what was asked of me and that they were not there to mentally abuse me like I

thought they were. They were actually there to help. I started following the rules of the house and went to the AA groups everyday and actually met a lot of interesting people. It wasn't as bad as I thought it was going to be and as long as I did what I was supposed to do, time went really fast. The staff at Atkins House was great! They were always there for me to help, answer any questions, or to just sit with and cry.

Before Atkins House I don't know how my life would have ended up when I got out of Boot Camp. It taught me a lot. I am not going to lie and say that I don't drink anymore because I still like to go out to dinner and have a few drinks, or have get-togethers at my house and have a few. But what I can say is that I have not and will not ever drive drunk again and risk losing my life or someone else's. It has been a very rough and long road since my accident and I will never forget what I have been through and what Jeff's family went through losing a son because I was drinking and driving.

It is now 2007 and I couldn't be happier with my life! I have a great pet care business, Morgan's Paws Doggie Day Care, a construction business, I own a Hummer, I am married and I have 2 beautiful doggies and 2 wonderful cats that I love dearly! And, I am the President of the Board of Directors at Atkins House!!!! It has been 7 years since the accident that changed my life and I will never forget it.

Susan and Sandy, I just want to thank both of you for giving me a second chance and not throwing me back in jail to spend the rest of my time. I have learned a lot from your program and I hope it helps others as much as it did me. You both are very caring and helpful ladies that make a difference in people's lives. Keep up the great work!

Sincerely
Leticia Giese

Annual Report of the Executive Director 2006-2007

Atkins House had a total of 32 residents in our program this past year. Five of those residents were still in the program at the end of the fiscal year. We had 25 successful completions during the year. None of the residents who successfully completed were returned to prison for parole violations. 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 113 clients for individual counseling in our out-patient program at Atkins House and at the prison. We held two relapse prevention treatment groups per week at Atkins House and one relapse prevention group per week at York County Prison. Residents also attended one life skills group per week and one HIV/AIDS Education/Prevention group per week. Pre-tests and Post-tests were used to evaluate groups. The drug and alcohol intervention groups at York County Prison were presented once a week during the year. Funding for our drug and alcohol counseling program was provided by York/Adams Drug and Alcohol Programs and Community Care Behavioral Health. Sexual abuse counseling, mother/child family counseling and the lifeskills program was funded by individual contributions from the community.

Our HIV/AIDS Prevention/Education group program was delivered to 412 women at York County Prison and 32 women in our residential program. Individual risk reduction counseling was delivered to 514 clients at the prison and at Atkins House. Eighty percent of clients who participated in the risk reduction counseling reported a reduction in high-risk behaviors. We also delivered a Special Initiatives program for an average of 60 young people at the York County Youth Development Center. This program included HIV/AIDS Education/Prevention and life skills. Funding for this program was provided by The Family Health Council of South Central Pennsylvania. This past year we delivered the SISTA program for women of color at York County Prison. This program and our HIV testing and counseling program were funded by York City Bureau of Health.

Susan Baugh
Executive Director

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 84% 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 Staff Members

Susan Baugh, Executive Director
Sandra Grove, Associate Director
Valerie Alwine, Administrative Assistant
Lisa Olmeda, Resident Manager
Yvette Wire, Resident Assistant
Betty Griffith, Staff Aide
Karen Washington, Staff Aide
Sandra Sipe, Staff Aide
Tennille Coleman, Staff Aide
Jamia Kinnard, Staff Aide
Rose Matthews, Staff Aide
Carolyn Murray, Staff Aide
Matthew Grove, Facilities Clerk
Vicki Wheeler, Clinical Supervisor
Lorene Brenneman, Treatment Secretary

Jodi Schmidt, HIV/AIDS Prevention/Education Coordinator

Mary Dorm, HIV/AIDS Prevention/Education Counselor

Jaceita Chilton-Walker, HIV/AIDS Prevention/Education Counselor

**Atkins House
Board of Directors**

**Atkins House
Advisory Board
Members**

Leticia Giese, President
Pamela Hoffman, Vice-President
Melanie Ferree, Treasurer
Erica Denenberg, Secretary
Sharon Ryder, Finance Committee
Chair
Sue Schroeder, Personnel
Committee Chair
Pamela Hoffman, Marketing &
Website
Kathy Haynes
Amie Lippert
Joan Maruskin
Alicia Zeigler

Ms. Joan Blevins
Chief Buffington
Dr. David Hawk
Mr. Mike Dress
Ms. Judy McConnell
Mr. Seth Noll
Agent Kiyona Rice
Kristen Sechrist
Mr. Michael Small
Detective Jeff Spence
Ms. Joanne Sullivan
Ms. Sandy Sutherland
Deputy Warden Roger Thomas
Director Kristi Ulrich

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.
Developed, hosted and managed by The Gilman Group Full Service
Web Presence Providers.

ATKINS HOUSE 1975-2007

For thirty-two years Atkins House, a non-profit corporation, has been making it possible for women offenders to rebuild their lives, providing them with a supportive and structured environment. Atkins House was founded in 1975 by local women's organizations who were distressed by the deplorable conditions women were experiencing at the old York County Prison.

The first facility at 307 East King Street was purchased by the Junior League and renovated by students of the York County Vocational/Technical School. It was named for the late Honorable George W. Atkins, known as a friend of those in trouble. Two adjacent houses, 305 East King Street in 1984 and 313 in 1995 have been acquired through the generosity of the Atkins family, local individuals and corporations. These buildings provide residence, classrooms, counseling, office and storage space.

The Residence houses fifteen women placed there by the PA Bureau of Community Corrections. Atkins House has a prison outreach program that includes drug and alcohol individual and group counseling, a lifeskills program and individual and group HIV/AIDS prevention/education counseling. The Atkins House PA Department of Health licensed out-patient treatment program provides individual and group drug and alcohol and HIV/AIDS prevention /education counseling to residents, former residents and any woman offender or ex-offender in York County. All residents participate in the lifeskills program.

Residents are funded through per diems from the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections, Bureau of Community Corrections. Residents contribute 25% of their income from employment to room and board and 25% to pay restitution. Residents paid \$17,220 restitution last year.

Drug and Alcohol counseling is funded through York/Adams Drug and Alcohol Programs. HIV/AIDS Education and Prevention counseling is funded through the PA Department of Health, Family Health Council of South Central PA and York City Bureau of Health. Lifeskills, Mother-Child counseling, Sexual Abuse counseling and Victim Awareness counseling is funded through individual community contributions.

ATKINS HOUSE

VISION STATEMENT

Atkins House will serve as an advocate for resources and support for women offenders in jails, prisons, community corrections facilities and ex-offenders in the community.

MISSION STATEMENT

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

BELIEFS STATEMENT

- We believe in the inherent value and uniqueness of each woman we serve. Respect for the individual shall be at the core of everything we do, every decision we make.**
- We believe leadership in our field positions us to be a positive force for change. We shall be uncompromising in our commitment to deliver programs and services worthy of recognition for superior quality, innovation and notable outcomes.**
- We believe positive outcomes for the women we serve are driven by dedication and commitment to mission and the expertise and experience of our staff. We will support their efforts accordingly.**
- We believe a strong financial model is essential to our future.**

VALUES STATEMENT

The Atkins House service delivery system must be client centered.

- **Services will reflect the needs and goals of the individual.**
- **Services will be provided without regard to race, creed or sexual orientation.**
- **Services will be provided in a confidential, non-judgmental and compassionate manner.**
- **The Atkins House service delivery system must be comprehensive, coordinated and cost effective.**
- **Services provided will reflect a continuum of care including counseling, case management and supportive needs.**
- **Services will assist clients in ways that help them enhance their lives.**
- **The Atkins House service delivery system must ensure quality care.**
- **Atkins House Board of Directors and Staff will commit to the mission and vision of the organization.**
- **Services will reflect the current recommended treatment and relapse prevention techniques for all programs.**