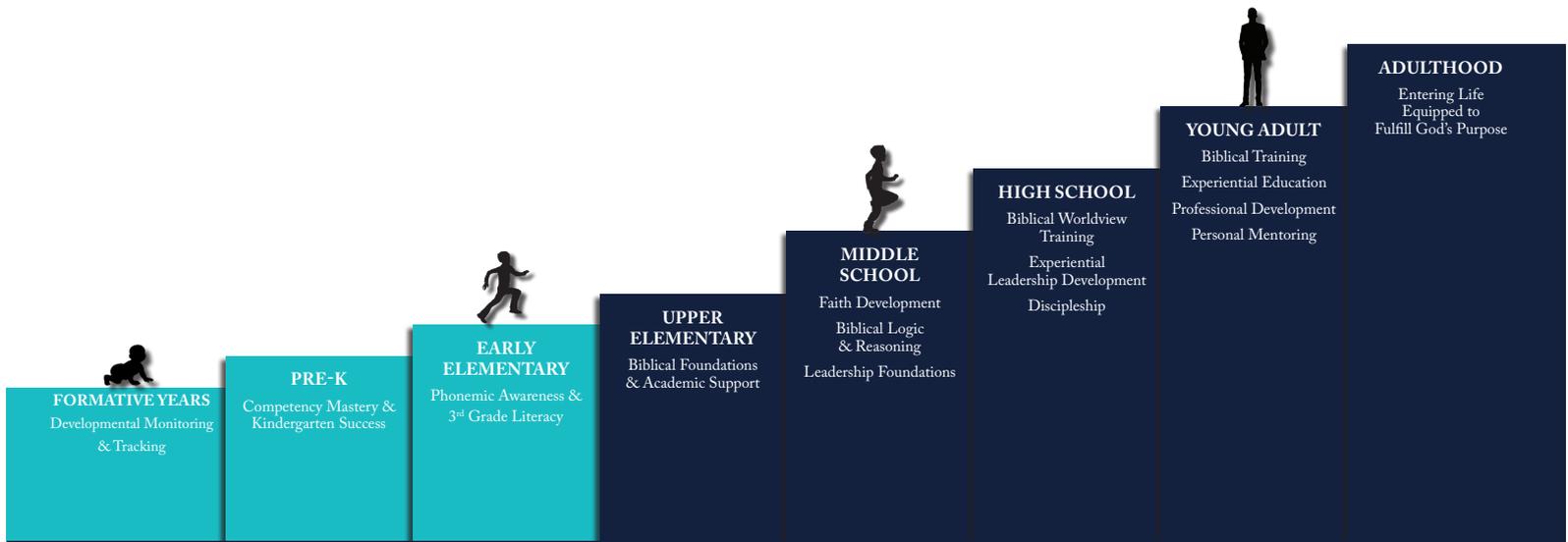




# THE ATLAS CONTINUUM

Developing Children from **READERS** to **LEADERS**



End of Year Report 2023



## ATLAS is a Continuum of impact built to transform a community.

ATLAS' mission is to see a community transformed through the steady deployment of Christ-centered, transformative young adults who are equipped to lead with **confidence** and **competence**.

### ATLAS has two central beliefs that drive the mission:

1. Every individual – man, woman, and child **was created** with intentionality and **purpose**. Inside each individual are unique gifts, talents, and passion which support that purpose.
2. If everyone was walking in that truth and purpose, **our community**, and society at large, **would look completely different**.



# LETTER FROM OUR DIRECTOR:



Most of us have heard the story of Gideon...the tale of an Israelite warrior who defeated the Midianite army after the Lord paired down his own forces to a mere 300 men. We have probably wrestled with certain elements of the narrative and likely learned a lot about God's character through it all. But as I reflect on ATLAS and the role we are playing in a much larger narrative here in Greene County, I would like to point our attention to Judges 6:14. *"The Lord turned to him and said, Go in the strength you have and save Israel out of Midian's hand."* What we learn in reading on is that Gideon considered himself to be the weakest of his family, which was the weakest in the clan, so it wasn't with an abundance of "strength" that God was urging him to "go"... quite the contrary. Yet through Gideon's eventual obedience we also learn that he was used to defeat the Midianites' mighty forces without raising his sword... It was God's victory.

The work that is being done here in Greene County is tremendous. This year has been very successful on so many fronts, none more meaningful than students coming to faith in Christ in great numbers. All along the ATLAS Continuum, I could share stories of successes from children learning to read to high school leaders emerging... from toddlers receiving developmental interventions to middle school students embracing higher purposes in their lives. The pages that follow will include an update on some of this. However, I would like to focus our attention before diving into the rest of this report.

Just like Gideon, there is a monumental task at hand here in Greene County and beyond. But also like Gideon, all God asks from us is to "Go in the strength you have." Similarly, we may see a lack of strength, a lack of resources, a lack of courage, or whatever it may be... but He is directing **us** to "Go in whatever strength we have." So, with that I am asking you to join me, maybe in a deeper way than you have in previous years. With our time, treasures, and talents, God has given us an opportunity to be a part of something special in our own community... to see it transformed.

The appointment of ATLAS' Executive Director has been the most purposeful endeavor of my life. As I head into the home stretch of my 5th year in this role, I have become even more convinced that what God is doing is extraordinary. Join the mission with whatever strength, or lack of strength, you may have and allow God to use it in ways you never thought possible. Join ATLAS in equipping children and their families to fulfill their God-given purpose and see our community transform from within.

Ryan Gibadlo  
Executive Director



# MEET JOSEPH BROWN

At 14 years old, Joseph Brown shuffled his feet into the ATLAS CLC classroom to begin his eighth grade school year with his head to the floor. Eye contact was not one of his natural mannerisms and the only confidence Joseph seemingly had was in his own inabilities. Yet, he somehow found his way into ATLAS' Leadership class that year. Joseph did have a sense of humor, but most of the time it was at his own expense. It seemed he almost found

comfort in embracing that he was not gifted, despite the fact that he was able to maintain all A's and B's in school with little effort. This was the beginning of Joseph's involvement at ATLAS.

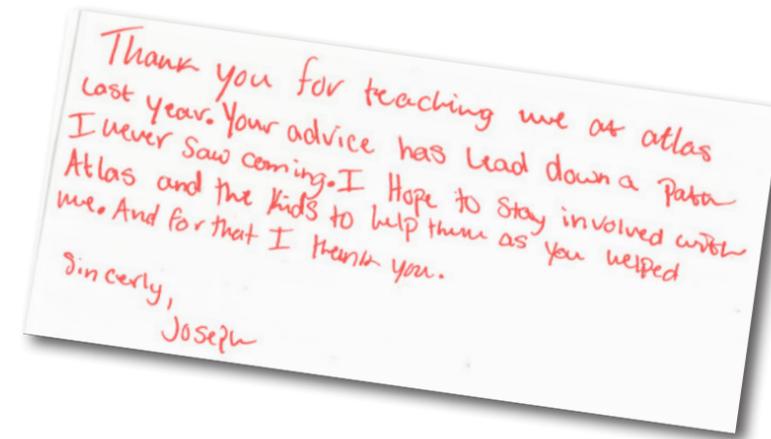
Over the next few weeks, Joseph steadily resisted the continuous invitation to come to THR!VE, a high energy youth environment built just for middle school students. It wasn't until his best friend Kyla, who was also one of the more unassuming students taking ATLAS' leadership course, began attending THR!VE that Joseph gave it a shot. That first night was a scavenger hunt that involved a variety of games including a geometric puzzle called a tangram which he and Kyla were able to complete faster than any of the other 40 students- ultimately leading to a first-place prize. After the activity, the leader of ATLAS' Christian Learning Center, Gerald Davis, spoke to the students on what it looks like to love like Christ and he tied it all together using an illustration from one of the activities in the scavenger hunt. After the first night, Joseph got into his mom's car and excitedly proclaimed that he wanted to come back next week. His mom was thrilled. It did not take long for him to realize that he was part of something special and he ended up attending 16 of the remaining 18 THR!VE events for that year.

At some point, a few months in, Joseph asked how he could get more involved and was invited to be a part of the THR!VE Core Team. This was the group of students who worked with the ATLAS staff to plan, develop, and execute all of their ideas for each THR!VE event. At one point, the group had the idea to turn the ATLAS facility into a cosmic bowling alley. Students spent the week leading up to the event building barricades and painting bowling pins with neon spray paint to create a glow in the dark extravaganza. From running a bowling alley concession stand to serving as the rules judges for each team, the students saw their idea go from concept to reality through their hard work and ingenuity. Joseph began to really come out of his shell as he entered into early spring of his 8th grade year. He was able to take the leadership principles he was learning in class and apply them in real life as a part of the THR!VE Core team.

By late spring, Joseph learned about a really interesting opportunity open to high school students through ATLAS. He was able to apply to be a camp counselor for ATLAS' Summer Camp. He learned he would receive



training and join a team of other high school students who would lead younger students through the camp experience. He wasn't sure if he would be able to lead younger kids, but decided to apply because he wanted to continue engaging in the organization where he had grown to feel at home. The first week of camp, Joseph was challenged like never before. The three days of intensive training equipped him as much as possible, but having seven actual 4th grade boys under his care and supervision was something he could never have fully prepared for... they were WILD. It was almost like Joseph's boys learned exactly how to push his buttons and spent the first few days doing everything they could to drive him to his breaking point... but he fell back on his training and leaned on his fellow counselors- ultimately building a deep bond with each of his boys that would stay with him long after camp ended. During those two weeks, he learned how to persevere through real obstacles, struggle with a team of peers to pull off an incredible camp, and stretch himself WAY beyond his comfort zone.



After leading students as a camp counselor, Joseph attended the FCA leadership camp with some of his fellow ATLAS leaders. Now, camp was a challenge, but this truly required him to stretch himself as he was thrown into a camp of his own with other high school students from all over the state. He had never really been anywhere significantly outside of Greene County. But after the first night where he had to be convinced to stay... he ended up having an amazing week where he received Christ centered teaching and had to push himself to abandon his comfort to grow.

At the beginning of his 9th grade year, Joseph began showing up at ATLAS Academy where he volunteered his time day after day, week after week, simply giving himself to the 3rd-5th grade students, providing them a model of their own leadership potential. After leading as a volunteer for a whole semester, Joseph was selected to join an exclusive leadership team called the ATLAS Early Leaders. He is now one of 10 students who have joined the ATLAS staff where they receive real responsibilities within the ATLAS programs. They lead younger students in activities, discipleship, and even academic support. On top of that, each week these Early Leaders are trained through modules built to equip them with tools that will elevate them above their peers in the workforce as they grow into adulthood. Lifelong skills like taking feedback, proactive language, and professionalism are a central part of the program.

Joseph is no longer the young man he was... lacking confidence in so many areas. He has caught wind of his own potential and is learning that there truly is purpose. In a recent note he wrote to his Leadership class teacher, Joseph not only expressed his thanks, but also recognized a higher purpose. Joseph stated **"I hope to stay involved with ATLAS and the kids to help them as you have helped me..."** The ripple effect has begun, and though his story is far from written, there is no doubt Joseph will not be the same... and because of this... neither will those he touches as he continues to grow into the man God has called him to be.



**CHECK OUT JOSEPH & HIS PEERS LEADING THROUGH ATLAS CAMP!**



# THE ATLAS CONTINUUM



**FORMATIVE YEARS**  
Developmental Monitoring  
& Tracking



**PRE-K**

Competency Mastery &  
Kindergarten Success



**EARLY  
ELEMENTARY**  
Phonemic Awareness &  
3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Literacy



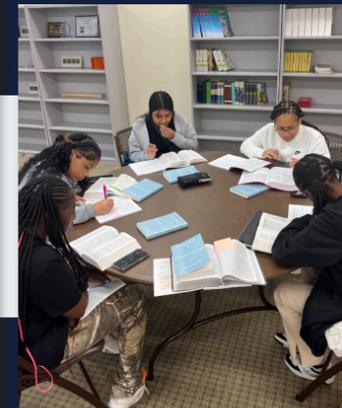
**UPPER  
ELEMENTARY**  
Biblical Foundations  
& Academic Support



**MIDDLE  
SCHOOL**  
Faith Development  
Biblical Logic  
& Reasoning  
Leadership Foundations



**HIGH SCHOOL**  
Biblical Worldview  
Training  
Experiential  
Leadership Development  
Discipleship



**YOUNG ADULT**  
Biblical Training  
Experiential Education  
Professional Development  
Personal Mentoring



**ADULTHOOD**  
Entering Life  
Equipped to  
Fulfill God's Purpose



# STRATEGY

The ATLAS Continuum is built to develop and deploy Christ-centered young adults who are equipped to lead towards community-wide transformation.

1. Early Learners with a target of producing 3rd grade **Readers**
2. Christian Learning Center with a target of producing Life Ready **Leaders**



## From READERS

ATLAS has identified 3rd grade reading as the primary midway check point. Research shows 3rd grade literacy drastically enhances a child's ability to develop in their educational journey beyond 3rd grade. If children are not proficient by 3rd grade, their ability to reach their ultimate potential is radically lower. In contrast, those who are able to reach that milestone by the end of their 3rd grade year are able to progress in their educational journey as lifelong learners, opening the doors to their maximized potential - and we believe, their God-given purpose.

## To LEADERS

Beyond 3rd grade, children enter the Christian Learning Center with the fundamental skill of reading proficiently, which opens the doors to their academic success as they grow. Likewise, children also enter with a foundational knowledge of God and biblical truth associated with a growing faith in Christ. The Christian Learning Center offers a variety of programs which all work together to instill the character and skills needed as they mature into young adults and leaders. Through training, experiential learning, and personal accountability, each avenue of impact has strategic value; and when children are able to participate in multiple ATLAS opportunities, the impact increases exponentially.



## THIS CURRENT SEMESTER - FALL '23

Total students being served in the ATLAS Continuum this fall semester- **355**  
That equates to **over 10%** of all children in Greene County this semester alone.

Early Learners - **114** students

Christian Learning Center - **241** students

## OVER THE LAST THREE YEARS

### IMPACT

Over **8,000** Instructional Hours for children 0-10

**1,397** Bible Verses have been memorized by children K-5th

**61** Students have received **3,825** hours of Orton Gillingham Instruction

Over **200** Middle School Students have attended THR!VE

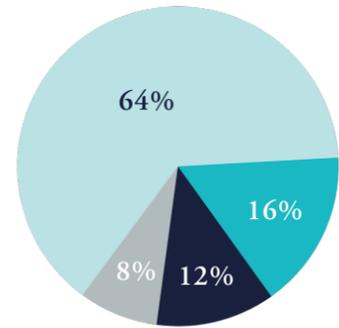
**298** Students have participated in ATLAS Summer camp including **62** HS Counselors

**339** Students have taken at least 1 CLC Course for school credit

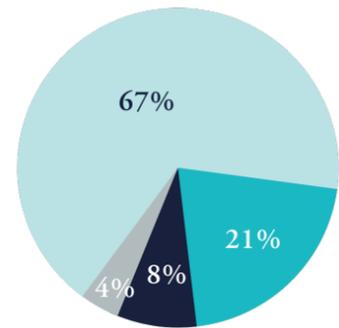
### OUTCOMES

- **551** Early Interventions have been made catching developmental delays through Infant Toddler Tech.
- Nearly **70%** of Primary Prep students have mastered **10 of 12** competencies.
- **100%** of students who master at least 10 competencies have tested on or above grade level entering Kindergarten. Students who complete Primary Prep average in the **71st percentile** nationwide through standardized tests.
- Students who have been involved in ATLAS CLC score on average, **11** points higher on the Biblical Worldview Indicator than those entering ATLAS for the first time.
- **86%** of THR!VE Core students feel they have grown closer to the Lord while **71%** have improved grades with **0%** having decreasing grades since joining ATLAS.

# FINANCIALS



## 2023 EXPENDITURES



## 2023 REVENUE



## WHERE WE ARE HEADED

With our full community in mind, ATLAS has big dreams and audacious steps in front of us as we continue to build out The Continuum. Currently serving right at 10% of the students in Greene County, our vision is to double the impact in the coming years to serve **20%** in our Early Learners program by 2026. Over the next 2 years we will be building out the runway to support that growth with additional staffing, new and expanded facilities, and deeper partnerships. God has been so faithful and provided some incredible pathways over the past several years - our prayer is to remain in lock-step with His vision for us and bold obedience each step of the way. **We invite you to prayerfully join the mission as we embark on those next steps!**



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