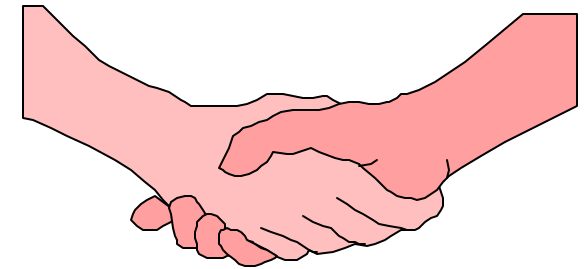


The AA Corrections "Bridging the Gap" Program



An AA Service
Opportunity
Connecting Inside
AA Members to
the AA Community

Correctional Facilities Committee
PO Box 1402
Bowling Green Station
New York, NY 10274-1402

Dear AA'er:

The purpose of the AA "Bridging the Gap" Program is to connect the inmate AA member with Alcoholics Anonymous in their community upon their release. You are being asked to be that AA "Bridging the Gap" volunteer. When a soon-to-be released AA inmate contacts us, we match them to a volunteer in their community. We call you, get the okay and then send the information along to you. Your job is simple. You contact the AA inmate and arrange to take them to an AA meeting within 24 hours of their release. Your commitment is taking them to a minimum of three and a maximum of six meetings. During this time, you help them get acquainted, get phone numbers, and perhaps locate a sponsor or home group. Please note: it is not intended that you become their sponsor, even temporarily. It is best if that work is not used in any way to describe your service. Volunteers are "bridges" to the AA community. You introduce them to other winners so they have a broad, healthy base and you are available to "bridge" again. Lastly, we request that volunteers have an active relationship with their own sponsor and a minimum of one year of continuous sobriety. If you are willing to be the hand of AA when an inmate reaches out for help, just complete the attached Volunteer Application, cut off and mail it to the address on the form. Keep the balance of this pamphlet for future reference.

"BRIDGING THE GAP" VOLUNTEER APPLICATION

Name: _____

Sex
M F

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Daytime Phone: _____ Nighttime Phone: _____

Home Group: _____ Location: _____

"BRIDGING THE GAP" PROCEDURE

1. Inside AA members are eligible for this program if they have less than six months left to serve and have been attending AA meetings on a regular basis.
2. The inmate fills out the application and mails it to the state-wide PO Box at Bowling Green Station. It is the responsibility of the SENY Chair to distribute applications (as they are received) to County Chairs in the Area the inmate is being released to.
3. County Chairs are responsible for finding volunteers to match the request in their areas.
4. The volunteer is to write a letter to the inmate, letting the inmate know that they are the AA contact and a paragraph or two about themselves as an introduction. We also suggest sending a meeting list for the area the inmate is being released to.
 - A. We suggest volunteers do not use their home address, but use the Corrections PO Box. All mail will be forwarded to the volunteer.
 - B. If, for any reason, the volunteer cannot complete the "Bridging the Gap" request, he/she should notify the Corrections County Chair so other arrangements can be made.
5. The volunteer will call the inmate on the day of release at the address the inmate is being released to and ask if the inmate would like to go to an AA meeting. This is a basic 12th Step call.
6. If they want to go to a meeting, you can make arrangements to pick them up or to meet at the AA meeting. On all 12th Step calls, AA suggests that two people meet the person you are making contact with.
7. Help the new AA to make the transition from AA meetings behind the walls to AA meetings on the outside. Introduce the new AA to others at the meeting, let them know about other meetings in the area, and tell them about sponsorship and the importance of a home group. This commitment is not about sponsorship – it is about helping to make the transition to outside meetings easier.
8. After six meetings, the volunteer is asked to let go and let God.
9. After the volunteer has completed the "Bridging the Gap" contact, please inform the County Chair and let them know how it went...we can learn from our experiences.

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