

Alcoholics Anonymous Area 74 Corrections Bridging the Gap Temporary Contact Program

Bridging the gap is a program that links AA members inside the jail and prisons, to members on the outside.

Introduction

Past experience has shown that attending an A.A. meeting on the outside on the day of release from prison or jail is one of the most effective tools for an inmate to make a sober transition and maintain continued sobriety in the free world. It is strongly recommended that an inmate who is an A.A. member have an A.A. contact on the outside who contacts the inmate and arranges to meet him or her on the day of release to help in "Bridging the Gap" between the institution and A.A. on the outside. (Introduction is copyrighted by Alcoholics Anonymous World Services — Corrections Workbook)

Dear AA Members (Inside--Inmates),

AA in this area has a transition program called Bridging the Gap. This means that you can sign up to be matched to an AA member on the outside, in your home community upon release. This AA Bridging the Gap Volunteer will take you to some meetings, introduce, and help you get acquainted and comfortable among new friends in AA. During this time you will learn about sponsors, home groups, working the steps, and service. Your Bridging the Gap Volunteer is only temporary. They will not provide you with housing, food, clothing, jobs, money, or other such services. You will undoubtedly hear the five basic suggestions for sobriety the fellowship shares with all members, which include: Don't Drink, Go To Meetings, Read The Big Book, Call Your Sponsor, and Work The Steps. Many of us have been where you are and know that the program of Alcoholics Anonymous and its Fellowship can do for you.

Please complete the attached "Inside Members Form" located at the bottom of this page. Keep the balance of this sheet for future reference. If possible send the form between one and six months of your release date. The more time you give us the better. If you have more than six months left to do on your sentence, and interested in a correspondence you can write to Correctional Facilities Desk General Service Office Box 459, New York New York 10163.

More Information On Back →

Outside AA Members Form On Back →

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Temporary Contact Program

Inside Members Form (Inmates)

Please Print (This information is only shared with outside volunteer)

NAME OF FACILITY _____

NAME AND DOC# _____

ADDRESS OF FACILITY _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP OF FACILITY _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP UPON RELEASE _____

AGE _____ SEX _____ APPROXIMATE DISCHARGE DATE _____

Send Form To Bridging The Gap P.O. Box 2022 Oshkosh, WI 54903

Or fax to 877-484-5093

Dear AA Members (Outside),

The Purpose of the Bridging the Gap Program is to connect the inside AA member with Alcoholics Anonymous in their community upon their release. You are being asked to be that Volunteer. When a soon to be released AA inmate contacts the Bridging the Gap committee, they are matched to a Bridging the Gap Volunteer in their community. We contact you with the inside AA members information and you initiate contact with them and arrange to pick them up and take them to an AA meeting within 48 hours of their release. Your commitment is to take them to several AA meetings. During this time, you help them get acquainted, get phone numbers, and perhaps help them get a sponsor and/or a home group. Please note, it is not intended that you become their sponsor. Bridging the Gap Volunteers are "Bridges" to the AA community. You introduce them to other winners so they have a broad healthy base and you're available to "Bridge" again. Lastly, we request that Bridging the Gap Volunteers have an active relationship with their own sponsor and/or a minimum of one-year sobriety. If you are willing to be the hand of AA when an inmate reaches out for help, please fill out the form below. Mail it or give the form to a Bridging the Gap committee person. We suggest that if you are on probation that you clear this service opportunity with your agent.

Bridging The Gap Procedure

The application form is part of this document. Inside AA members are eligible for this program if they have between one and six months to release. The inmate fills in the application and mails it to the Corrections Post Office Box. The Corrections Committee will process and coordinate the forms with outside members and is responsible for finding a Bridging the Gap Volunteer to match the request. The volunteer is to write the inside AA member within three weeks. If the Bridging the Gap Volunteer does not wish to use their own address, they may use the Corrections P.O. Box. Letters to this P.O. Box will be forwarded to the volunteer. It is critical that the Corrections Committee is aware of any correspondence going to the P.O. Box, and that the inmate write the outside AA member's first name, city and state at the top of the letter and the envelope. The Bridging the Gap Volunteer will meet the applicant at an agreed upon time and place to help the applicant attend his/her first few meetings.

Thank You

I am responsible. When anyone, anywhere reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA always to be there. And for that I am responsible.

More Information On Front →

Inside AA Members (Inmates) Form On Front →

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Temporary Contact Program

Outside Members Form (Volunteer)

Please Print (This information is confidential. Only a select few of Corrections Committee members will see this information furthermore this information will never be given to anyone else.)

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

AGE: _____ SEX: _____ Alcoholics Anonymous District _____ Of Area _____

E-Mail _____ Phone _____

Send Form To Bridging The Gap P.O. Box 2022 Oshkosh, WI 54903

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