

Alcoholics Anonymous District 02 (Area 74) Corrections Bridging the Gap Temporary Contact Program

'Bridging the Gap' is a program that links A.A. members inside jails and prisons to A.A. 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)

Outside A.A. Members (Temporary Contact Volunteer):

The Purpose of the Bridging the Gap Program is to carry the A.A. message and connect the inside A.A. member with Alcoholics Anonymous in their community upon their release. You are being asked to be that Volunteer. When a soon to be released A.A. 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 A.A. members information and you initiate contact with them and arrange to pick them up and take them to an A.A. meeting within 24 hours of their release. This is your commitment! During this time, you are to 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 A.A. 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 A.A. 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 A.A. members are eligible for this program if they have between two 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 A.A. member within two 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 A.A. 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.

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Outside A.A. Members Temporary Contact Volunteer Form

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 704; Appleton, WI 54912