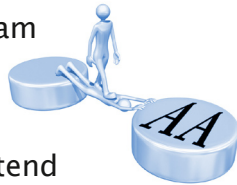


WHAT IS BRIDGE THE GAP?

Temporary Contact program is an option for those in alcoholism treatment facility or other type of institution who wish to attend Alcoholics Anonymous after their discharge.



WHAT BRIDGE THE GAP DOES

Helps individuals make the transitions from the facility to AA.

THE VOLUNTEER TEMPORARY CONTACT MAY:

1. When possible, contact the newcomer by phone before leaving the facility.
2. Take newcomer to a variety of AA meetings after leaving the facility.
3. Provide the newcomer with information about AA.
4. Introduce the newcomer to AA books, pamphlets, and schedule of meetings in their local area.
5. Explain the different meeting formats (discussion, speaker, big book study, step study) and cover the difference between open and closed AA meetings.
6. Help introduce the newcomer to members in the fellowship of AA.
7. Explain sponsorship to the newcomer and the importance of obtaining a sponsor.

WHAT DOES AA DO?

1. AA members share their experience with anyone seeking help with a drinking problem; they give person-to-person service or "sponsorship" to the alcoholic coming to AA from any source.
2. The AA program, set forth in our Twelve Steps, offers the alcoholic a way to develop a satisfying life without alcohol.
3. This program is discussed at AA group meetings.
 - a. Open speaker meetings
 - b. Open discussion meetings
 - c. Closed discussion meetings
 - d. Step meetings
 - e. AA members also take meetings into treatment facilities.
 - f. AA members may be asked to conduct the informational meetings about AA as part of programs.

"Singleness of purpose is essential to the effective treatment of alcoholism."



The reason for such exaggerated focus is to overcome denial. The denial associated with alcoholism is cunning, baffling and powerful and affects the patient, helper and the community.

Unless alcoholism is kept relentlessly in the foreground, other issues will usurp everybody's attention."

BRIDGING THE GAP



BETWEEN FACILITIES AND ALCOHOLIC ANONYMOUS

TEMPORARY CONTACT PROGRAM

Offered by:
District 7

Treatment Facilities Committee

Serving Des Moines, IA
and surrounding communities

Fax: 1-888-245-3005
E-mail: dmbtg@yahoo.com

BRIDGE THE GAP DOES **NOT**

- Provide long-term sponsorship.
- Provide a long-term taxi service.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS*

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others recover from alcoholism. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. There are no dues or fees for AA membership; we are self-supporting through our own contributions. AA is not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organization, or institution; does not wish to engage in any controversy, neither endorses nor opposes any causes. Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics achieve sobriety.

*Reprinted with permission from the AA Grapevine.

AA PAMPHLETS AVAILABLE

FROM AA MEETINGS OR YOUR TEMPORARY CONTACT

- Questions and Answers on Sponsorship
- Where Do I Go from Here?
- AA at a Glance
- Information on Alcoholics Anonymous
- Problems Other Than Alcohol
- Meeting Directory

BRIDGING THE GAP PROGRAM

Objective

To bridge the gap from facilities and institutions to the meetings and fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Purpose

First, to provide the client with a temporary contact from recovery in AA.

Second, to inform the client of our "Singleness of Purpose", and what AA does and does not do.

The Bridging the Gap Temporary Contact Program is designed to help alcoholics in hospitals and institutions to make the transition from these places back into the community.

As most of us know, the most "slippery slope" along the road to recovery from alcoholism is between the front doors of the facility and those of that first AA meeting! Many of us can share that, although we were fully aware of AA when we were in these same shoes, we were afraid to walk through the door for the first time.

In order to "bridge" this gap, AA members from all over have volunteered to be temporary contacts for alcoholics in these institutions, for a short while until the client becomes comfortable and more confident in the fellowship of AA.



TEMPORARY CONTACT REQUEST FORM

To arrange a Temporary Contact complete this form and fax it to the Temporary Contact Team who will process your request promptly. Your new AA Temporary Contact will attempt to phone within 3 days.

Fax: 1-888-245-3005 • E-mail: dmbtg@yahoo.com

Facility Name _____

Facility Phone _____

Counselor/Worker Name _____ Phone _____

Patient First Name _____ Last Initial _____

Home phone _____

Home address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Year Born _____ Male Female Discharge Date _____