

VOLUNTEER APPLICATION-BTG

APPLICANT INFORMATION

SEND TO:

AREA 10 CORRECTIONS/BTG

P.O. BOX 40368

DENVER, CO 80204

NAME		AGE	SEX
ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP
HOME PHONE #		WKPH#/CELL PH#	
SOBRIETY DATE:		EMAIL/FAX	
Date Sent:	Date Received:	Revived By:	

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BRIDGE VOLUNTEER'S RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Contact inside AA member by letter within **two weeks** of being matched. Remain in communication with inside AA member until release.
- Arrange to meet former offender at an AA meeting within **24-hours** of release.
- It is suggested that the first meeting be viewed as a regular twelve step call and that you take another person with you. Use the same guidelines you would with any newcomer, even though they may have been attending AA meetings inside.
- Review the Bridge Program with the former offender so that there are no misconceptions as to what this program does or does not do.
- Remind them as often as necessary that you are but a temporary bridge to their new AA community.
- Remember that your job is finished after six meetings, or if a permanent sponsor has been found sooner. Do your best to encourage that relationship.
- Make sure they receive schedules, phone numbers, literature and their own Big Book.
- Encourage them to attend meeting as often as possible, find a home group and most importantly; encourage them to get a sponsor as soon as possible. Even a temporary sponsor who has time for them NOW would be acceptable.
- Share your experience, strength a hope with them as you would with any other member new to AA in your community.
- Upon completion, inform the Bridge Coordinator as to the results of your "bridge." Let us know what works and what doesn't.
- Most importantly, keep in touch with your sponsor, your Higher Power and maintain your own AA program.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS "DON'T LIST"

- ✓ DON'T forget the urgency of the former offenders first meeting
- ✓ DON'T become responsible for the member's attitude or action in or out of the meetings!
- ✓ DON'T carry the Alcoholic as in, do not:
 - Loan money or anything of value
 - Become a personal taxi service for the miscellaneous errands
 - Forget that our primary purpose is to carry the AA message.
 - Become responsible for housing or employment.
- ✓ DON'T allow an emotional or romantic relationship to develop between you.
- ✓ DON'T exceed a maximum of six meetings
- ✓ DON'T act in any reporting or communication capacity regarding the AA member and the justice system. Tradition Twelve is vital!
- ✓ DON'T forget yourself or your own personal program of recovery while giving time and energy to others.

SUGGESTED READING

- ✓ Carrying the Message into Correctional Facilities
- ✓ Where Do I Go from Here?
- ✓ AA in Prison: Inmate to Inmate
- ✓ AA in Correctional Facilities, It Sure Beats Sitting in A Cell
- ✓ Memo to An Inmate Who May Be an Alcoholic
- ✓ DO share our experience on how to stay away from the first drink – one day at a time, utilizing the Twelve Stop program of Alcoholics Anonymous.
- ✓ *If the volunteer has a record with the state of Colorado Department of Corrections (DOC) or a DOC volunteer clearance, Area 10 BTG chair will inform DOC Faith and Citizen Program of the Bridge Volunteer, offender participants as standard procedure on all "bridges".*

Bridge the Gap Offender Application

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SEND TO:
AREA 10 CORRECTIONS/BTG
P.O. BOX 40368
DENVER, CO 80204

NAME + DOC #		AGE	SEX:
DOC ADDRESS			
CITY		STATE	ZIP
HOME ADDRESS			
CITY	STATE	ZIP	FUTURE PH#
DATE OF ARRIVAL AT HOME ADDRESS		SOBRIETY DATE	
Date Sent:	Date Received:	Revived By:	

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Dear Inside AA member:

AA in this area has a transition program called "Bridge 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 Bridge Volunteer can take you to 3-6 meetings, introduce you around, and help you get acquainted and comfortable around new friends in AA. During this time, you will learn about sponsors, home groups, working the steps, and service. Your Bridge Volunteer is only temporary and will not follow-up or try to control you, nor provide 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!

They are: Don't Drink! Go to Meetings, Read the Big Book, Call your Sponsor, and Work the Steps.

Past experience has shown that attending an AA meeting on the outside as soon as possible after release makes for a successful sober transition into the free world. Many of us have been where you are and we know what the program of AA and its fellowship can do for you, by what is has done for us and countless others. Please remember that the only requirement is a desire to stop drinking.

Please complete the attached "Offender Application," detach and mail it to the address on the form. Keep the balance of this application for future reference. Do this as soon as possible once you have a release date. The AA Bridge Coordinator will then match you with a Bridge Volunteer in the community where you will be living. That person will contact you through the mail with information on how to contact him once you are released.

BRIDGE PROCEDURE

1. Inside AA members are invited to use this program. Hopefully, they have a short time left to serve and have been attending AA meeting when available.
2. The offender fills in the application and mails it to **Area 10 Corrections/BTG**, which will be responsible for procession and coordination all bridges.
3. The Bridge Coordinator will notify the inside member that the application has been received and that the process has been started.
4. The Bridge Coordinator is responsible for finding a Bridge Volunteer to match the request.
5. When a Bridge Volunteer has been found, the Bridge will inform the inside AA member that a "bridge" has been established.
6. The Bridge Volunteer is to write the inside AA member within **two weeks** confirming contact and a willingness to act as a "bridge".
 - a. Return address will be the address of the Area 10 Corrections c/o BTG PO Box 40368 on this application. All letters will be forwarded from here.
 - b. If the Bridge Volunteer does not contact the inside AA member within two weeks, the Bridge Coordinator should be notified by the offender at the above address.
7. The inside AA member will then inform the Bridge Volunteer of all pertinent information as to date of release, what their local address and phone number will be, date, and time of arrival and other pertinent information.
8. The Bridge Volunteer will meet the applicant at an agreed upon time and place, to help the applicant attend his/her first few meetings.
9. After up to a maximum of six meetings, the Bridge Volunteer is asked to "Let Go and Let God!" So they may again function as a "bridge".
10. After a "bridge" has been completed, the Bridge Volunteer will inform the Coordinator of the results.