

Bridging the Gap Volunteers

- The purpose of Bridging the Gap is to bridge the Gap between the treatment facility or shelter and the first A.A. meeting within 24 hours of discharge in their home area for the patient or resident.
- Volunteer A.A. “bridgers” usually work in gender appropriate pairs; two adults always accompany a minor.
- As soon as you receive the “bridge” contact name and number, call immediately and arrange the first meeting that same day. The first 24 hours post discharge is critical as many distractions are common. When calling it is alright to say as an example, “We will be over tonight at 7:30 pm to go to our A.A. meeting together.” If they are not willing to go they will tell you.
- If you are able to call into the facility prior to their discharge, please be respectful of the facility’s policies and practices.
- Remember...we are not doctors and have no opinion about nor do we interfere with a patients prescribed medication.
- Please advise the Bridging the Gap chair at bridgingthegap@district10miami.org how the bridge went and any suggestions you may have to improve our service.

Helpful Hints for Bridging the Gap 12 Step Service

1. Remember you may be the first outside member of A.A. the contact meets. As such, you are representing all of us. It is important to be relaxed, friendly and interested. This is 12 Step work..take another A.A. member with you on the first call.
2. Keep the general conversation related to recovery. Avoid discussing the new member’s discharge. We have no opinion on outside issues.
3. Take time to introduce the new person to as many A.A. members as possible. Do not, however, push your contact. Some people are very shy.
4. Invite them to the “meeting after the meeting” if there is one. Show them we are happy, joyous and free and that sobriety can be enjoyable.
5. Your commitment is usually finished after attending six meetings or as soon as a sponsor has been located. Use good recovery related judgment about when to end the relationship.
6. Make sure the newly released A.A. member receives meeting schedules, phone numbers and A.A. literature.
7. Encourage the new member to attend meetings as often as possible, to find a home group and to get a sponsor as soon as possible. Let them know even a temporary sponsor now would be acceptable.
8. Share your experience, strength and hope with the newly discharged member, just as you would anyone else new to A.A. in your community.
9. Be familiar with the suggestions of the BTG program contained in the pamphlet P 49, viewable at AA.org or at our District10miami.org. We don’t offer or imply any other service and assistance unless we personally want to provide it.
10. Please respect the complete anonymity of the new member.

Offered by Alcoholics Anonymous District 10, Area 15 Miami-Dade County Florida

