

## Into Action

1. **Fill out the volunteer form** enclosed in this pamphlet. That information will go to the district Bridging the Gap (BTG) coordinator.
2. The BTG coordinator will use your information to pair a volunteer (you) with a newcomer who has asked for an A.A. member to help them connect to A.A. meetings. **The BTG coordinator will give you basic information about the newcomer.** Make initial contact as soon as possible. The shared information will **give you a preferred method of contact** (phone call, text, e-mail).
3. **Make arrangements** for the first meeting. If meeting online, share the meeting entry information **accurately**. For an in-person meeting, be explicit about where to meet (parking lot, inside, picking them up). Experience suggests that it is best to have another A.A. member come with you if you offer to drive someone to a meeting.
4. At the meeting **introduce the newcomer** to as many A.A. members as possible and help them get phone numbers.
5. **Invite and attend** with them the fellowship before/after the meeting.
6. **Answer any questions** they may have based on your experience. Help them with A.A. and online meeting etiquette.
7. Make sure the new member **knows how to find meeting information, and A.A. literature.**
8. **Arrange to attend additional meetings together.** Encourage the newcomer to choose the meetings, and to find a sponsor and home group. Attend a variety of meetings.
9. **Please reach out** for any help **you** may need:

[bridging@district32aa.org](mailto:bridging@district32aa.org)

## Temporary Contact Suggestions

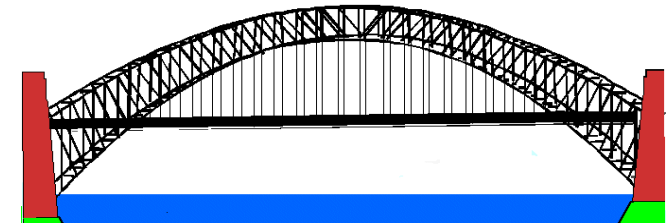
- Share your experience, strength, and hope with the newcomer. Be friendly, interested and relaxed. Your role is to share our fellowship rather than to “sell it”. **Attraction rather than promotion.**
- Be explicit that **your time with them is temporary.** You can use good recovery-related judgement about when to end the contact. Attempt to attend between 2 and 3 meetings in the first two week period, and up to **6 or 7 meetings total.** Contact can also end once the new member has found a temporary or long term sponsor. **You can then choose to be a temporary contact for another person.**
- **Alcoholics Anonymous and you are not responsible to provide** housing, food, clothing, jobs, transportation, money, online devices or other welfare or social services. If you do offer any of these is it strictly your choice.
- **Do not give any advice** that can be taken as medical, therapeutic, religious, or vocational counseling.
- If the newcomer has a relapse, you are not to blame. **You cannot keep another alcoholic sober,** only yourself. Stay the course of your recovery and make a program based decision about whether to maintain further contact.
- Some newcomer might want to attend meetings in their community of residence which may be outside of district 32. **The BTG coordinator can help you find those meetings.**



Algona  
Auburn  
Federal Way  
Pacific

# Bridging the Gap

This is a service of Alcoholics Anonymous and is not connected with any facility or institution



Temporary Contact

An orientation into A.A.

## Welcoming Volunteer

I AM RESPONSIBLE

When anyone, anywhere,

reaches out for help

I want the hand of

A. A.

always to be there.

And for that I am responsible.

## Volunteer form

Please help with this important Twelfth  
Step work

Date \_\_\_\_\_

First name \_\_\_\_\_

Last name initial \_\_\_\_\_

Gender identity \_\_\_\_\_

Sobriety date \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

City of residence \_\_\_\_\_

Availability:

treatment [ ] corrections [ ]  
schools [ ] hospitals [ ] other [ ]

meetings online: yes [ ] no [ ]  
in-person meetings: yes [ ] no [ ]

Meeting times:

morning [ ] midday [ ] evening [ ]

When completed take a photo or scan this  
form and send to:

[bridging@district32aa.org](mailto:bridging@district32aa.org)

Or tear off this section and mail to:

BTG—District 32

PO Box 4722

Federal Way, WA 98063

*Thank you for your service to  
Alcoholics Anonymous*

last revised 3/29/2021

Dear AA Member

One way that you can be of service to Alcoholics Anonymous is to become a volunteer for the Bridging the Gap program. Do Twelfth Step work for another alcoholic who is reaching out.

The Bridging the Gap program (BTG) helps connect a newcomer to Alcoholics Anonymous. When someone contacts A.A. for help we match that person to a temporary contact. The temporary contact volunteer arranges to attend a variety of A.A. meetings with this newcomer and introducing him/her to other A.A. members. This temporary support can sometimes make the difference in attracting the newcomer to what A.A. in our area has to offer.

As a volunteer you can extend your hand and carry the A.A. message to a newcomer (or a member that has relapsed).

## Volunteer Guidelines

- Bridging the Gap is **not to be confused with sponsorship**. The intent is to provide the newcomer with your support for a limited time.
- Remember, **you are representing A.A.** How you look, act, and talk is a reflection of our fellowship.
- **Respect the anonymity** of the newcomer.
- Keep the general conversation limited to A.A. related matters, avoiding any criticism or opinions about the newcomer's situation. **Volunteers need to adhere to any rules that apply to the newcomer's housing requirements.**
- A.A. experience suggests that **men work with men, women work with women.**
- It is suggested that volunteers have **one year of continuous sobriety and /or have completed the 12 steps of Alcoholics Anonymous**
- In all contacts it is extremely important to **be on time.**

Greater Seattle Intergroup

Call **(206) 587-2838** 24 hours a day  
to talk to a sober alcoholic

To help, contact: [NightWatch@SeattleAA.org](mailto:NightWatch@SeattleAA.org)