

Bridging The Gap

The purpose of the Bridging the Gap (BTG) program is to connect the soon-to-be-released A.A. member in jail with A.A. volunteers in their community upon release from jail. You are being asked to be that volunteer. When an inmate contacts the BTG coordinator, the inmate is matched to a volunteer in their community. When you are matched with an inmate, the BTG coordinator will provide you with the inmate's information. You will then write the inmate and inform them that you will arrange to pick them up and take them to an AA meeting. Your commitment is to take them to several AA meetings. During this time, you help them get acquainted, get phone numbers, and perhaps help them get a sponsor and a home group. It is not intended that you become their sponsor. Your job is to get the inmate plugged in to the AA community to reduce their risk of relapse. Then, you become available to "bridge the gap" again!

Bridging the Gap procedure:

- The inmate completes the application and mails it to the Corrections Committee.
- The BTG coordinator reviews each application and matches the inmate with a suitable BTG volunteer.
- The BTG coordinator provides the volunteer with the inmate's information.
- The BTG volunteer writes the inmate within three (3) weeks and informs the inmate that they will meet them at an agreed upon time and place following the inmate's release from jail to help the inmate attend his/her first few meetings.
- If the BTG volunteer does not wish to use their own address, they may use the Corrections Committee's address. Letters from inmates will be forwarded to the volunteer. In this case, it is critical that the Corrections Committee is made aware of any correspondence going to the P.O. Box, and that the inmate write the BTG volunteer's first name, city and state at the top of the letter and the envelope.

Volunteer guidelines:

- It is recommended that volunteers have **at least a year of sobriety**.
- As with all 12th step work, you should bring another BTG volunteer when you first meet the newly released inmate.
- The intent is to provide the newcomer with your help for a limited time. You need not have experience as an inmate or with taking meetings into jails. Your qualifications are experience as an alcoholic and recovery in A.A.
- As a Bridging the Gap volunteer, your personal information will never be given to the inmate.

Temporary contact name: _____ Sex: _____ Age: _____

Address: _____ Sobriety date: _____

Phone number: _____ - _____ - _____

Submit this form to: Jefferson District Corrections Committee – AA
P.O. Box 4756, Charlottesville, VA 22905