

## ***Bridging the Gap Program***

Dear A.A. Member,

The Bridging the Gap Program, or BTG, connects the new member being discharged from a facility to A.A. in their community. You are being asked to be that connection, which is called a Temporary Contact.

When a new, soon-to-be discharged member contacts us, we match that person to a Temporary Contact in the community where they will be living. If you have volunteered for this type of service, we will call you, get the okay, and then send you their contact information.

Your job is simple. You contact the new A.A. member and arrange to take them to an A.A. meeting, preferably within 24-48 hours of their discharge. Your commitment is taking them to as many as six meetings.

During this time, you help them become acquainted, get phone numbers, and perhaps locate a sponsor and a home group. You introduce them to others in A.A. so they have a broad, healthy base. Afterwards, you may serve as a Temporary Contact for another person.

Please note: It is not intended that you become their sponsor, even temporarily. It is best if the word "sponsor" is not used to describe this type of service. The term Temporary Contact is preferred.

If you are willing to be the hand of A.A. when a member from a facility reaches out for help, complete the Temporary Contact form, and give it to your BTG coordinator, or an AA member who can send it to the Treatment Facilities Committee.

Volunteers need to adhere to the rules facilities have regarding contact with residents, both while they are in the facility and after they are discharged. The BTG coordinator can provide the necessary information for each facility.

### **Suggestions for the Temporary Contact**

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.
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. 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.

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Family Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Gender:  Male  Female

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip or Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Number: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Group: \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip or Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please register me so that I can be contacted:

(Check one or more of the following selections)

Alcoholics Anonymous A.A.

Intergroup (Local A.A. Office)

Print your Initials here: \_\_\_\_\_

**This information is confidential and will remain inside A.A.**

Please provide this page to an A.A. member or Bridging the Gap Coordinator and ask them to promptly e-mail it to [treatmentfacilities@marylandaa.org](mailto:treatmentfacilities@marylandaa.org) or fax to 410-451-0680.

**Thank you for Serving Alcoholics Anonymous!**

Alcoholics Anonymous Website

[www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org)

Maryland General Service Website

[www.marylandaa.org](http://www.marylandaa.org)

AA Grapevine Website

[www.aagrapevine.org](http://www.aagrapevine.org)

**MGS Treatment Facilities Committee**

[treatmentfacilities@marylandaa.org](mailto:treatmentfacilities@marylandaa.org)

Fax: 410-451-0680

MGS Treatment Facilities Committee

[treatmentfacilities@marylandaa.org](mailto:treatmentfacilities@marylandaa.org)

Intergroup listing

<http://www.marylandaa.org/intergroups.htm>

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*For AA's in the AA Community*

*A.A. Temporary Contact  
Bridging the Gap Volunteer*

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Assistance is provided by A.A. Members  
and Groups that are supported by:

**M**aryland

**G**eneral

**S**ervice

Area 29

**Treatment Facilities & Corrections  
Committees**

In partnership with the local Intergroup

Connecting inside A.A. Members and  
Newcomers to the Outside A.A.

Community