

## **Georgia Bridge Program Information**

### **Georgia Region Bridge Program Announcement**

The Georgia Region fellowship has adopted a new state-wide project called “The Georgia Region Bridge Program”. The purpose of the bridge program is to provide a “Bridge” between people reentering their communities from in-patient treatment or incarceration and their first meeting of Narcotics Anonymous. You can help be the bridge as a temporary contact to introduce the newly clean to N.A.!

#### **3 WAYS TO SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER**

- Complete Volunteer Form attached and mail to: Georgia Region Bridge Program, PO Box 49786, Athens GA 30604
- Email your contact information to: [nabridgeprogram@gmail.com](mailto:nabridgeprogram@gmail.com)
- Sign up on website! Go to [www.grscna.com/Subcommittees/Handi/Bridge](http://www.grscna.com/Subcommittees/Handi/Bridge) (Please read all info – do’s & don’ts and then click signup.

### **HOW IT WORKS**

When you volunteer, you we ask you to provide your name, telephone number, your email address, the community in which you attend meetings, your clean date, your gender, and your age group. Most of this information is used to match you to the newcomer and to be able to contact you if we receive a request in your Area. It is only viewed by the Bridge committee members and is never released to any other NA member or outside organization.

When a request for a temporary contact is received, you will get a phone call to see if you are available to help out & meet them at a local Area NA Meeting. You can always decline and we will ask you again the next time. The newcomer’s contact information will be given to the first available volunteer.

You will arrange to connect with the newcomer at a meeting as soon as possible. At the meeting you will introduce the newcomer to other members of the fellowship, explain about NA literature, provide a meeting list, and encourage the newcomer to join in fellowship after the meeting. You will make additional arrangements to meet at two or three meetings over the next couple of weeks.

This is not a temporary sponsor program. It is simply helping the newcomer feel welcome and connected to the fellowship. That is all there is to it. Help make this program a success and volunteer today.

Full details of the program are available. Simply email [nabridgeprogram@gmail.com](mailto:nabridgeprogram@gmail.com) to request a full packet from a bridge committee member.

**NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS Georgia Region Bridge Program**

Volunteer Form Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Clean Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Clean Time in NA: \_\_\_\_\_

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

NA Area: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Numbers: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have an NA sponsor? Yes / No Work NA Steps? Yes / No \_\_\_\_\_

Briefly describe the NA Service Structure:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Email your completed form to [nabridgeprogram@gmail.com](mailto:nabridgeprogram@gmail.com) or mail to: Georgia Region Bridge Program,  
PO Box 49786, Athens, GA 30604

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## **DO'S & DON'TS OF BRIDGE PROGRAM**

DO respond to requests as soon as possible.

DO meet the member at an NA meeting within 48 hours of their release.

DO view your first meeting with the member as you would any other 12-Step call and take another member along.

DO accompany the member to a variety of meetings and review the many different meeting i.e. open vs. closed, book study, step study, question & answer, etc.

DO make sure they receive an updated meeting schedule and NA literature.

DO encourage them to introduce themselves and ask for phone numbers.

DO explain group membership and the value of having a home group.

DO explain sponsorship and refer to IP#11 - "Sponsorship." Introduce the member to potential sponsors.

DO carry a clear and consistent NA message.

DO help them find 2 – 3 meetings in their Area and remind them that this is a temporary arrangement.

DO discuss any questions or problems with the Bridge Program Coordinator and/or your sponsor.

DO keep to our basic principle when helping of men with the men, and women with the women.

DON'T sponsor the member, even temporarily. It is important that they meet and build relationships with as many other NA members as possible.

DON'T loan money, or provide housing, food, clothing, car, job, or any other welfare, social, or legal services.

DON'T provide domestic or vocational counseling; provide detoxification, medical or psychiatric services.

DON'T be involved in reports to the Justice System. Remember our 12th Tradition - Anonymity is vital!

DON'T become emotionally or romantically involved.

DON'T be responsible for the member's actions or attitudes - in or out of the meetings.

DON'T accept money or gifts for your services, or any contributions from non-NA sources.

DON'T volunteer if you have been a victim of, or an accomplice to a crime that someone is currently incarcerated for.

DON'T engage in conversations about the incarcerated member's crime.

## **Thank you for signing up as a Georgia Region NA Bridge Program Volunteer! We deeply appreciate your support & service!**

**This packet will help you understand your responsibilities as a volunteer:**

**What is a “Bridge Program?”**

**A Temporary Contact Program – Helping inmates / clients / addicts in correctional & treatment facilities to transition to outside Narcotics Anonymous meetings.**

Addicts nearing release from facilities and institutions can experience feelings of fear about reentering society. They may worry that they won't find the support to keep their recovery going. Narcotics Anonymous can help.

We “Bridge the Gap” so newly clean don't have to walk alone across that scary gap between the beginning of recovery they found through H & I meetings in facilities and the rest of recovery in NA. We will now also be able to reach the addicts that have not been able to hear our life saving message through H & I while in an institution by providing our “Information / Contact Request Form” to counselors, wardens, chaplains & RSAT contacts throughout the state of Georgia.

The programs outlined below will give the Narcotics Anonymous in the Georgia Region the opportunity to fill a void in the exit process that has been missing, helping addicts find our meetings: “Meetings keep us in touch with where we've been, but more importantly with where we could go in our recovery”

**Basic Text Pg 54**

### ***Volunteers:***

1. Georgia Region Bridge Program volunteers demonstrate an ability to carry a clear and consistent message of recovery in Narcotics Anonymous.
2. Georgia Region Bridge Program volunteers must have at least one year continuous clean time with a working knowledge of the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions of Narcotics Anonymous.
3. Georgia Region Bridge Program volunteers must have a willingness to serve and the ability to answer requests in a timely manner
4. No personal or improper conduct of any kind, i.e. personal information, photographs, sexual content, religious materials, email addresses. Ask yourself before you interact, “Would I want everyone to know that I said or did this? Remember that you will be viewed as representing Narcotics Anonymous.
5. As it is always suggested when doing NA 12-Step work, do not go alone when meeting new members at NA Meetings, always take another member with you or have someone meet you there.
6. Keep the Project Coordinator up-to-date on your work in this area. Volunteers will need to send a completed “Volunteer Report Form” upon completion of the transitioning of new member to the outside NA meetings and NA community.

- No Sub-Committee Meetings
- Volunteers will only be called if a newly clean is transitioning to their NA Area / City. We will match the newly clean to a volunteer in their local NA community.
- Volunteers will communicate & report to Bridge Program Project Coordinator
- These guidelines / Do's & Don'ts need to be followed to guarantee successful temporary contact and to maintain integrity of our program.

### **Do's & Don'ts of Bridge Program**

DO respond to requests for information within 1 week.

DO meet the member at an NA meeting within 48 hours of their release.

DO view your first meeting with the member as you would any other 12-Step call and take another member along.

DO accompany the member to a variety of meetings (if possible) and review the many different meeting i.e. open vs. closed, book study, step study, question & answer, etc.

DO make sure they receive an updated meeting schedule and NA literature.

DO encourage them to introduce themselves and ask for phone numbers.

DO explain group membership and the value of having a home group.

DO explain sponsorship and refer to IP#11 - "Sponsorship." Introduce the member to potential sponsors.

DO carry a clear and consistent NA message.

DO help them find 2 – 3 meetings in their Area and remind them that this is a temporary arrangement.

DO discuss any questions or problems with the Bridge Program Coordinator and/or your sponsor.

DO keep to our basic principle when helping of men with the men, and women with the women.

DON'T sponsor the member, even temporarily. It is important that they meet and build relationships with as many other NA members as possible.

DON'T loan money, or provide housing, food, clothing, car, job, or any other welfare, social, or legal services.

DON'T provide domestic or vocational counseling; provide detoxification, medical or psychiatric services.

DON'T be involved in reports to the Justice System. Remember our 12th Tradition - Anonymity is vital!

DON'T become emotionally or romantically involved.

DON'T be responsible for the member's actions or attitudes - in or out of the meetings.

DON'T accept money or gifts for your services, or any contributions from non-NA sources.

DON'T volunteer if you have been a victim of, or an accomplice to a crime that someone is currently incarcerated for.

DON'T engage in conversations about the incarcerated member's crime.

### **SUGGESTED READING FOR GEORGIA REGION BRIDGE PROGRAM VOLUNTEERS PI & the NA Member**

H&I and the NA Member

PR Handbook

H&I Handbook

Behind the Walls

Reaching Out NA: A Resource in Your Community

12th Step in Basic Text & It Works, How & Why

**Thank you for taking part in your own recovery by sharing and caring the NA way so that "No addict, anywhere, need die from the horrors of addiction."**

Some questions for potential Georgia Region Bridge Program Volunteers to think about and use as a tool to measure your commitment:

- Is your recovery based in Narcotics Anonymous? Explain.
- Do you have an NA sponsor?
- Do you work the steps of Narcotics Anonymous?
- Do you sponsor others in Narcotics Anonymous?
- Do you attend NA meetings regularly?
- Do you have at least one year continuous clean time?
- Do you have a clear working knowledge of the Twelve Traditions of NA?
- Do you have a relationship with any person that may be getting released to your area soon?
- Do you have a family member with any person that may be getting released to your area soon?
- Have you thought about whether this service work could be a problem or conflict for you, i.e. what if you find out the person you are helping served time for something you find morally wrong?
- Have you spoken with your NA sponsor about becoming involved with this type of service work?
- Have you ever done a 12th step call before?
- Do you want to take time to help new members learn about Narcotics Anonymous?
- Could this program have helped you or someone you know when getting released from a facility?
- Do you think this program can help new members find a home in NA? Explain