

February 27, 2026

Hi, my name is Nick, and I'm an alcoholic. My sobriety date is October 23, 2017. I have a sponsor who has a sponsor, and I am a member of the No 1/2 Stepping Group. I also have the privilege of serving as a special worker at the General Service Office.

In that role (GSO Staff), I currently correspond with members from the Pacific Region and serve on the Self-Support and Finance assignment where I support the work of the AAWS Finance Committee and the Self-Support Subcommittee. I also support the work of the Trustees' Finance and Budgetary Committee, the Trustees' Audit Committee, and the Conference Committee on Finance. Part of my role is connecting with members who contact the office with questions that arise directly from their group experiences on the topics of group treasuries, contributions, or they are looking for shared experience on these topics. At other times, members have questions about their personal or group 7<sup>th</sup> Seventh Tradition contributions to the General Service Board and specific financial information about the General Service Office and its management of money.

As it pertains to financial reporting, I often direct members to [AA.org](https://aa.org), where they can find information about the [Meeting of the AAWS, Inc., Board of Directors](#) and the [Quarterly Report from GSO](#). I frequently help members connect with their area delegates, who can best explain the quarterly financial reports, along with [2025 General Service Conference Final Report](#), where they can carry that information back to their local A.A. communities.

Another duty of the Finance and Self-Support desk is to help create and adapt material that reflects self-support and financial information from the fellowship's shared experience. You will find access to these different types of material associated with the assignment on the [Contributions and Self-Support](#) section of AA.org. One example is the [F-203 Seventh Tradition Fact Sheet - Your Seventh Tradition Contributions](#), which offers an overview of how members' contributions support our vital services over the course of a year. It explains how their 7<sup>th</sup> tradition contributions have supported services such as literature, corrections, treatment, accessibility efforts, and communication with groups and members.

What that fact sheet does not show are the voices behind the numbers. It does not show the calls that come into this office asking for help, the moments of identification that happen when a pamphlet is read, when a committee chair or GSR receives a service kit, the connections formed when someone in a remote location on the side of the world, realizes they are not alone because their letter was answered by the International assignment, or the reaction of Deaf or hard of hearing members at a forum are fulfilled when they are given an opportunity to participate in service. It also does not show the concern and heartbreak this year has brought our committee members on our corporate boards when examining how to make budget cuts and manage the financial state presented to us today. It does not show the conversations that happen in our hallways of GSO when members visit from just around the corner, or from across the globe, and walk into our offices to share how thankful they are that Alcoholics Anonymous was there when they needed it.

Before I understood what self-support was, I benefited from it. When I came out of rehab, I did not know where I would land. What I did know was that I needed a meeting. Through the Meeting

Guide app, I was able to find Alcoholics Anonymous at 10pm the night before Thanksgiving. That access was made possible by those before me.

What I knew early in my journey was limited, but that all changed in my second year of sobriety. Right before Covid, I had moved from the Bronx to Rockland County, NY and found myself disconnected from service in the way I had been accustomed. Wanting to remain useful, I volunteered to serve on the New York Intergroup hotline. Throughout the Pandemic, our fellowship phones still rang, emails were answered, and meetings were adapted online. Alcoholics still found A.A. because the Fellowship had chosen, long before the crisis, to support itself.

During my time working on the Corrections Desk, I found some of the most powerful expressions of self-support are shared and included in the [Sharing from Behind the Walls Newsletter](#).

One recent excerpt from the Fall 2025 publication read this:

*"Thank you very much for replying to me. I was very happy that you did. And I loved the magazine you sent me. It's incredible what it has done for many people like me. The stories touch me and motivate me to continue in A.A. Here where I am, a fellow comes, but he speaks only English and I speak just a little. But I attended a meeting and they showed me what they were studying, and the page they were on. They read in English and read in Spanish. It made me really happy to participate in that meeting. They were studying the Traditions, and I knew what they were talking about."*

Another incident that stays with me is when I received a phone call from an incarcerated member in Southwest Texas. He requested a pamphlet I had never read and likely never would have encountered on my own, [P-21 Indigenous People in A.A.](#). He later asked in a follow-up letter for additional copies, not only for himself, but for others in that facility who suffered from alcoholism, but assumed they were not welcome in A.A. He wanted to show the members that they too belonged to Alcoholics Anonymous. Today that member has shared that the fellowship within those walls has begun to grow in numbers.

I read stories like this, and I am reminded of something important. I did not send that letter, The General Service Office did not send those letters, we all did. Contributions that trickled from the basket, down through the upside-down triangle, allowing services to members just like me, someone seeking hope. Through our guiding principles, the Fellowship has endured and grown across countless trials. When I think of our co-founders' vision, and of all that we have carried forward together, I am often moved by what I see today. I watch A.A. members labor across the world serving A.A. whether it is in committee meetings or one on one helping the next suffering alcoholic wherever they may be. The first hundred did not wait for certainty or abundance, and because of that, Alcoholics Anonymous was there when I needed it.

I no longer ask what I, or even we, might gain by contributing. I ask what might be lost if I do not. That question troubles me far more. We have always been reminded that our book is meant to be suggestive only, and that we know only a little. What has carried us forward is not control, but trust. Trust that God will continue to disclose more to us, and that we will be shown how to create the Fellowship we crave. My task is not to predict every outcome, or steer your beliefs on A.A.

matters, but to keep my own house in order, to ask myself each day what I can do for the alcoholic who still suffers, and to be willing to act when the answers come.

I am deeply grateful to work as a Staff member at the General Service Office of Alcoholics Anonymous. I thank you all for trusting me to serve this Fellowship in this role, and I look forward to meeting you all as we trudge the *Road of Happy Destiny* together.