

Using Our New Service Tool for Outreach to Native American/Aboriginal Populations

Al-Anon's Path to Recovery----Al-Anon is for Native Americans/Aboriginals (S-67)

As you know, Al-Anon/Alateen Family Groups extends help and hope to ALL families and friends of alcoholics, regardless of race, creed, cultural heritage, or sexual orientation. In keeping with the 2002 World Service Conference's commitment to continue to reach out to diverse populations, this new leaflet is now available for outreach projects to Native Americans/Aboriginals. Designed for use by -Al-Anon members and organizations to reach out to this population, Al-Anon's new service pamphlet describes in clear terms the universality of Al-Anon program principles.

Ideas for putting the new S-67 pamphlet to work in your area:

- Use your local telephone directory or Internet search engines to identify Native American/Aboriginal health, cultural, and social service organizations in your community, or on reserves/reservations. Call them and ask if you can deliver copies of the pamphlet and local meeting lists or provide an "introduction to Al-Anon" presentation. Here are a few examples:
 - Tribal governor's/ Aboriginal chief s office
 - Public Health Service hospitals
 - Tribal/Band police
 - Cultural and Friendship Centres
 - Provincial treatment centres
 - Tribal/Band courts
- Contact Native American/Aboriginal organizations on reservations/reserves or in urban areas. The WSO has been advised that 50 percent of all Native Americans live in US cities and that Canada has over 100 Aboriginal Friendship Centres in metropolitan communities.

Members can...

- ✓ offer to hold a six-week series of beginners meetings at a Friendship Centre, cultural centre, or tribal/band facility.
- ✓ add local meeting lists and *Al-Anon's Path To Recovery* (S-67) to Newcomers' Packets (K-1 7).
- ✓ provide an Al-Anon (M-71) or Alateen poster (M-72), or Table Display (M-73).
- ✓ create e-mail distribution lists of appropriate facilities and send invitations to an open meeting.

The purpose of a service tool such as *Al-Anon's Path to Recovery* is to help attract people from a specific culture, create a sense of identification with the impact of alcoholism upon their family lives, and to feel welcome in Al-Anon. Many "special populations" in our fellowship are served by such pamphlets [*Al-Anon Is for Men* (P- 1), *Al-Anon Is for Adult Children of alcoholics* (P-52), *The Al-Anon Focus* (P-45, dual members), *Al-Anon Is for Gays & Lesbians* (P-85)]. Members share that these pieces have helped them to know that they are welcome, and enabled them to continue in recovery. Another service tool is in development for outreach to the African-American/Black communities.

While individual groups are welcome to stock *Al-Anon's Path to Recovery* with their other literature, the WSO encourages members to step out of their Al-Anon meeting room to use *Al-Anon's Path to Recovery* *Al-Anon is for Native Americans/Aboriginals* for broader outreach. Watch for the next issue of *Area Highlights* for sharings from members on the use of this pamphlet, and send us YOUR sharing on Native American/Aboriginal outreach!