

## NORTHERN CALIFORNIA HOSPITAL & INSTITUTION COMMITTEE

### Annual Pink Can Collection Report – FYE 2023

The Hospital & Institution Committee of Northern California is a Ninth Tradition service committee of Alcoholics Anonymous with the purpose of carrying the message of A.A. to those who are confined in prisons, hospitals, treatment facilities, and other institutions. NorCal H&I has been carrying the A.A. message of recovery to confined alcoholics for 82 years, dating to its origins in 1942 at San Quentin State Prison, and is one of the oldest Ninth Tradition service committees of Alcoholics Anonymous.

In the period ending December 2023 NorCal H&I incurred \$471,400 of literature expenses for the use of the alcoholic who is confined. Despite lingering shutdowns, we were still able to distribute literature, including AAWS books, Grapevine / LaViña magazines and books, and meeting schedules to our facilities. These necessary categories comprise 89% of the total NorCal H&I 2023 expenses. Additionally, we pay for neither an office nor for salaries for service committee workers, thus enabling us to dedicate such a large portion of our contributions to literature for the confined alcoholic. We publish our Financial Report online monthly in order to be accountable to our Fellowship for these and all other expenses.

Northern California H&I supports approximately 25,200 meetings *each year*, serving approximately 25 major state and federal institutions plus hundreds of local jails, hospitals, rehabs, and other community facilities. Those who are confined often don't have the resources to buy AA literature, so the Pink Can, with your contributions, covers this cost. Unlike other areas of the country which don't have separately funded H&I committees, in Northern CA the use of the Pink Cans allows us to purchase literature necessary to our service without placing the burden of this expense on the local groups, Central Office, or General Service Committees.

The Northern California Hospital & Institution Committee has for many years been one of the largest purchasers of literature from AAWS, contributing significantly to the support of our General Service Office in New York. No H&I members are ever paid for their Twelfth Step service, nor are they reimbursed for expenses incurred carrying the message into these institutions, regardless of the distance. Some H&I volunteers drive well over 200 miles for a weekly or monthly institution meeting - these travel expenses are a personal contribution of the individual.

The H&I Committee is adamant that the contributions so generously made to our Pink Cans in no way detract from the Seventh Tradition collections of the groups. We therefore ask that the Pink Cans be passed separately from and after the baskets to avoid subtracting from support of the Seventh Tradition, and we encourage all members to remove the cans from the baskets if they are being passed together. Many groups have had success in passing the collections at different times, for example passing the basket at the regular time and passing the Pink Cans at the end of the meetings. An online payment option is also available from our website at <https://www.handinorcal.org/contribute> where you can get a receipt as soon as the transaction is processed.

We are humbly grateful for the generous contributions, both financial and in service, of the AA members of Northern CA who make our mission possible, and especially for the cooperation of our fellow service committees through-out the area. **Without this loving support, tens of thousands of confined alcoholics simply would not have access to the lifesaving message of A.A.**

For additional information, please visit our website at [www.handinorcal.org](http://www.handinorcal.org) or write to the Northern California Hospital & Institution Committee. P.O. Box 192490, San Francisco, CA. 94119-2490.