

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA HOSPITAL & INSTITUTION COMMITTEE

Annual Pink Can Collection Report – FYE 2017

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, and other institutions. Nor Cal H&I has been carrying the A.A. message of recovery to confined alcoholics for over 70 years, dating to its origins in 1942 at San Quentin State Prison, and is one of the oldest independent service committees of Alcoholics Anonymous.

In the fiscal year ending November 2017 NorCal H&I spent \$411,265 for books and literature from AA World Services; \$69,428 for the AA Grapevine in both English and Spanish; \$5742 to purchase Meeting Directories from the local Central Offices; and \$23,650 to ship, distribute, and supply these items throughout Northern California. These necessary categories comprise over 94% of the total NorCal 2017 expenses and **amounts to the cost of giving away just one Big Book, one Twelve and Twelve and a small handful of pamphlets and schedules per meeting.** 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.

Northern California H&I supports approximately 33,500 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 have no money to buy the AA literature brought in by the H&I volunteers, so the Pink Can, with your donations, covers this cost to provide them with the life-saving message of our literature that those of us on the outside take for granted. 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 the literature necessary to our service without placing the burden of this expense on the local groups or Central 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. It's not unusual for an H&I volunteer to 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 7th 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.

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 or write to the Northern California Hospital & Institution Committee. P.O. Box 192490, San Francisco, CA. 94119-2490.