

Northern California Hospital & Institution Committee

FINANCIAL FACT SHEET

If any-one's ever asked you "Why put money in the Pink Cans - H&I has plenty of money?", the following information may be helpful:

1. The conference-approved pamphlet "Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix" recommends maintaining a Prudent Reserve and reasonable operating funds of one to twelve months' worth of operating expenses; obviously the larger the monthly expenses the larger the multiple should be. General Service Office in New York maintains a twelve-month reserve, most Central Offices maintain six months' reserve plus operating expenses and many individual groups maintain approximately three months reserve. As of 12/30/2025, H&I's combined cash reserves equal 6.6 months' of the previous year's expenses, a conservative number considering our *monthly expenses are significantly higher than those of almost all Central Offices!*
2. Our committee spends over half a million dollars every year to purchase, store and ship literature for the alcoholic who is confined. This makes us one of the largest purchasers of A.A. literature in the world, year in and year out. Not only does this help keep the cost of literature reasonable for everyone, it also helps support our General Service Office in New York, since approximately 30% of their operating expense is subsidized by income from AAWS (see www.aa.org/assets/en_US/en_gsofinancialinfo.pdf).
3. A.A.'s Grapevine, Inc. has faced some serious financial challenges over the years; without the substantial yearly purchases from our committee, things would be a lot worse than they currently are. We purchased approximately \$88,000 in Grapevines, Grapevine books and La Viñas in 2025, thus helping to support this vital service.
4. No H&I volunteer is EVER compensated for their Twelfth Step work of going to facilities to carry the message of A.A. to the confined alcoholic. While our committee does reimburse officers for travel on the *business of the committee* to allow those who wish to participate to do so regardless of financial ability, our reimbursement rate of \$.32 per mile is *less than half* the rate at which many other service committees compensate.
5. Although our committee is responsible for organizing and supporting tens of thousands of meetings every year in Northern CA, we have neither payroll nor office expenses, thus enabling approximately 88% of our entire expenses to be devoted to the purchase, shipping and storage of AA literature, Grapevines, La Viñas and Area meeting schedules for the confined alcoholic – a truly excellent bang for your service buck.
6. Without the literature provided by the NorCal H&I committee, many confined inmates, residents or patients would simply go without the life-saving literature of Alcoholics Anonymous. Prior to implementation of our Pink Cans back in the 1950's, volunteers who wanted to bring literature to confined alcoholics had to go begging to either their groups or to their Central Offices to help them, often stretching the groups beyond their ability to pay for other services. By using funds collected from contributions to the Pink Cans to purchase this much-needed literature, we're taking the responsibility OFF the local groups and Central Offices.
7. NorCal H&I is one of the oldest and largest Ninth Tradition service committees in all of A.A., pre-dating even our General Service structure. We provide over 27,000 meetings to confined alcoholics every year and are fully transparent in our financial activities, publicly posting our financial statement every month on our website.
8. Alcoholics: "tight as the bark on a tree" ([Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions](#), p. 161). Our committee has repeatedly emphasized our desire that the Pink Cans be passed separately from and after the 7th Tradition baskets. Far from detracting from support of our meetings, our Central Offices and our General Service Office, when implemented properly the use of the Pink Cans, by giving members an additional opportunity to contribute, will actually HELP our other services. What it gets down to is accepting the spiritual principle that support of our services involves a sacrifice of money as well as a sacrifice of time (members of our committee not only give generously of their time, many of them sacrifice significant funds out of their own pockets in gas and tolls for their Twelfth Step work to carry the message to remote facilities, often hours from their homes).

In answer to the question "Does H&I REALLY need money?", the response is "Only if you think we should provide literature to carry the life-saving message of A.A. to the alcoholic who is confined". *If groups stopped making contributions to the Pink Cans, our funding for literature would rapidly dry up and we would no longer be able to provide to confined inmates, patients and residents the literature on which those of us on the outside depend for our sobriety.*

We operate in gratitude for the generous and loving contributions of the AA Groups of Northern California.

Northern California Hospital and Institution Committee – January 2026