

Corrections Corner: Gratitude

The GSIG Corrections Committee would like to thank the volunteers who carry the AA message into correctional facilities.

If you're interested in joining us, please email volunteercorrections@seattleaa.org.

In their own words, here's what being of service means to some of the volunteers:

- *I take meetings into jail because I was there many times- sick, hopeless, powerless & alone. Now I go in because I GET to. I am free from the inside today because of AA, service & something way bigger than me, which gives me hope that I can bring a glimmer of light to even one hopeless soul, just like I was.*
— Angel G, King County Jail Volunteer
- *My first sponsor said that people who do institutional work have a better chance of staying sober. I don't know if I've helped anyone or always been happy to go in. But not once have I ever left without immense gratitude knowing the only difference between the girls in there & me is this program.*
— Niki H, King County Jail Volunteer
- *I've been taking meetings into jail since 2015 because I know that many people there have a connection to addiction. My hope is that someone will decide to try AA to change their life for the better, as participating in AA changed mine.*
— Ann S, King County Jail Volunteer
- *For the past 30 years, I've taken meetings into jails because it could have been me there, as I was often a drunk driver, had a bad wreck and never located what I hit. In this way I'm paying a debt to society which adds depth to my sobriety and increases my gratitude that I'm not in jail!*
— Barbara G, King County Jail Volunteer
- *I have been taking meetings to women since 1995 until Covid in March 2020. Now I've been given clearance to return and am so grateful. This is the most rewarding twelfth step work I've ever done.*
— Pam H, King County Jail Volunteer Coordinator
- *I enjoy going into this facility because it's where I got sober. I had a spiritual awakening and when released, no longer had the urge to get high. Telling my story to alcoholics and addicts over the past 6 months is an absolutely amazing feeling.*
— Maryah W, Kent City Jail Volunteer
- *I've been going to the Kent Jail for 5-7 years. I love the look on the girls faces when they start to get it. I get goosebumps and see how blessed I am to have AA and God both on my side!*
— Debbie L, Kent City Jail Volunteer
- *It was 11-years ago, in a moment of pain and suffering that I applied to take meetings into Kent City Jail. My heart has been with those women who look at me across that table ever since. Doing my part to plants seeds of hope, love and encouragement with no expectations feels like freedom to me.*
— Christie D, Kent City Jail Womens Meeting Coordinator
- *I've been going since 2014 because it enriches my sobriety/recovery. I was in jail during my addiction and know what these women are going through. If I can plant one seed and give back what was freely given to me, the rewards are endless and priceless.*
— Janet A, Kent City Jail Volunteer
- *I got into AA because of my drinking and driving. My mom died driving drunk. It's a privilege to go into the jail and hope my story can crack open someone's heart to understand there is a different way of living.*
— Dennis, Kent City Jail Volunteer
- *Since April 1990, I've taken the message of recovery into Kent City Jail. I started as a means of satisfying my 9th step amends. I continue today as the rewards of helping others have been greater than any sacrifice I make...and it insures my sobriety!*
— Bob, Kent City Jail Volunteer Coordinator
- *I have been taking meetings in for almost 2 years. I caused a lot of wreckage in my alcoholism, and now feel truly blessed to be able to sit with women who are looking for a way out. This is my living amends to my sisters In Recovery and my community.*
— Morgan G, SCORE Volunteer

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STORIES, STEPS & TRADITIONS

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- *I am grateful that I was given a second chance at life. By sharing my story, I hope to simply plant a seed that AA is here for them when they get out, regardless of their circumstances.*
— Katie Jo, Juvenile Detention Volunteer Coordinator
- *I know many people who struggled to find a different way to live when they got out, yet continued their cycle of alcoholism and addiction. I want to show our youth that there is hope, that they can have a better life, and support is available if they truly want it and work for it, no matter their age.*
— Iwaine, Juvenile Detention Volunteer
- *I have had the honor and privilege to carry the AA message behind the walls since I was early in sobriety. The challenge of carrying our message of hope to young people in youth detention centers is especially gratifying*
— Barry K, Juvenile Detention Volunteer Coordinator
- *I am grateful to get a chance to share my experience, strength, and hope with young teens. And, share with them that young people do recover and can have a good life without alcohol.*
— David S, Juvenile Detention Volunteer
- *My brother once said to me, "Kim you're the only person I call who could tell me they are on their way to jail and it doesn't make me worry!"*
— Kim, SCORE Jail Volunteer Coordinator
- *I feel privileged to volunteer taking our program to incarcerated women. Our meetings behind bars are positive and affirming for the inmates, and we are shining a light in their lives.*
— Beryl, Score Jail Volunteer
- *I am so grateful to do this service work and carry the AA message. The gift of desperation and the language of the heart can be heard in jail meetings.*
— Cynthia, Score Jail & Federal Detention Center Volunteer
- *In 1995, I started taking women's AA meetings to King County Jail. Over time, I could feel the positive response the inmates were getting just by the smiles on their faces and the relaxed sharing of their lives. Next, I investigated and got approved to start AA meetings at Regional Justice Center and later at SCORE Jail. Every adventure brought more & more desire for sobriety in my life. THANK God!*
— Elaine, a GSIG Corrections pioneer connecting AA with Correctional Facilities
- *Once I came to my regular meeting at the Women's Work Release, planning to go back out as I was at my wit's end during a contentious divorce. The women there carried me through that week — I had finally shifted from talking at them to talking with them. I forged my way through to finding my own conception of a higher power as the message of Hope and Power was so clearly delivered to me by those women. I continued to take meetings for 15 years, I am forever grateful.*
— Keri S, former Ratcliff Women's Work Release Volunteer
- *The ladies I saw each week were my reminders. Their highway was where I was traveling. They touched my heart & brought me much gratitude.*
— Judi R, former Regional Justice Center Volunteer Coordinator
- *When I was in jail, prison, and work release, having someone bring a meeting in was a gift and a privilege. They brought hope that things could be different, that change was possible. I have abundant gratitude for the experiences and lifeline that was so freely given.*
— MJ was kind enough to write this. She is now sober over 9 yrs



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