

§ SUPPORTING YOUR FELLOWSHIP

Why Support Families Anonymous?

Members of Families Anonymous™ (FA™) often share stories of how they have been immeasurably enriched, on both personal and spiritual levels, by their participation in the fellowship.

Many of them fear they might not have survived without the support of other FA members, the life-changing lessons of FA's Twelve Steps, and the wisdom found in FA's many publications, including our daily-readings book *Today A Better Way*™.

FA cannot continue providing these valuable services without your financial help.

Two entities guide the FA fellowship. They are the World Service Office (WSO) and the World Service Board of Directors (WSB).

The WSO is the central service point for FA groups and the public. The majority of FA's expenses are in support of WSO operations. These include payroll; office lease; office equipment, supplies, and Internet; literature printing costs; shipping and freight; and website development and hosting fees.

The WSB formulates policy, administers business, assures FA's compliance with legal obligations as a U.S. not-for-profit corporation, and safeguards adherence to FA's program and guiding principles. It also oversees the WSO.

WSB members are volunteers and receive no compensation of any kind from the fellowship. The WSB's expenses include premiums for

required liability insurance for our U.S. groups; license fees for online collaboration and meeting tools that facilitate the effective conduct of business by the WSB; and fees for required business filings. FA's complete financial statements are on our website.

The Only Way FA Can Survive Is Through Your Support

Every group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.

— Tradition Seven

FA has only two sources of revenue: income from the sale of FA literature, and donations from FA members and groups.

Tradition Seven requires that FA accept donations only from individuals and groups within the fellowship. FA cannot and does not accept any form of financial support from outside persons or entities. Therefore, your financial support is essential not only for FA's continued growth but for its very survival.

Working Step Twelve Is a Vital Part of How We Grow

Having had a spiritual awakening as a result of these Steps, we tried to carry this message to others and to practice these principles in all our affairs.

— Step Twelve

Step Twelve is all about “giving back,” about carrying FA's message

to others who are suffering. There was once a time when each of us was a newcomer to the fellowship, arriving at an FA meeting in emotional, physical, mental and spiritual pain, struggling to cope with, and make sense of, the impact of addiction on our own lives as well as the lives of our loved ones.

One of the best ways you can “give back” to the fellowship and “pay forward” to future newcomers is by financially supporting your group as well as the WSO.

How You, As an Individual Member, Can Support the Fellowship*

• *Contribute when your group “passes the basket”*

Although no dues or fees are required for membership, our groups do ask for voluntary contributions from members at every meeting. This is done by “passing the basket,” a tradition followed in virtually all Twelve Step recovery fellowships.

When FA's founding members initially came together about a half century ago, in 1971, the tradition was to put a dollar in the basket when it was passed around for donations. Sadly, after inflation, the purchasing power of that dollar today is only about *twenty-five cents!*

* Because FA is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation, any personal donations to the WSO are tax deductible, regardless of the form they take. Individual FA groups and intergroups, however, do not carry the same not-for-profit status as does the incorporated FA fellowship. In addition, any FA entity existing outside the U.S. is subject to its own country's legal designation of charitable or not-for-profit status.

So, when the basket is passed at your meeting, remember that your group's expenses (such as rent, meeting supplies, welcome packets, and other FA literature)—as well as the WSO's and WSB's expenses—are paid for in today's dollars. Please examine your conscience and consider increasing your weekly donations to your group.

• ***Make single-event donations to the WSO***

Examples of single-event donations include *gratitude donations* (thanking FA for guiding your way toward peace and serenity amidst chaos and dysfunction), *celebratory donations* (marking a special occasion, such as the sobriety milestone of a loved one or the anniversary of your first FA meeting), and *in memoriam donations* (honoring the memory of a beloved family member or friend, whether within or outside the fellowship).

The WSO will share news of your special donation (unless you request otherwise) by publishing a brief announcement in *The Twelve Step Rag*, FA's bimonthly newsletter.

To donate by **mail**, send a check or money order to Families Anonymous, Inc. (see below).

To donate by **phone**, call the WSO (see below), and give your credit or debit card information and the amount of your donation.

To donate **online**, go to the FA

website and follow the instructions under Donations.

• ***Schedule recurring donations to the WSO***

If you like to schedule automatic payment of your bills, you might also like the convenience of arranging to donate a set amount of money to FA on a regular, recurring basis.

No more having to remember to make donations! Members' contributions of as little as five or ten dollars a month can add up substantially and go a long way toward helping our common cause.

To find out how, go to the FA website and follow the instructions under Donations.

• ***Make Legacy Donations to the WSO***

Has FA been an important part of your journey toward a better life? If so, we encourage you to consider making a donation to the fellowship that will keep on giving for many years to come.

This could entail remembering FA in your will, or naming FA as the beneficiary of a life insurance policy, or setting up a trust to distribute monies to FA over a period of time after you have passed.

To find out how, go to the FA website and follow the instructions under Donations.

How Groups Can Support the Fellowship

The first financial responsibility of our FA groups is to be fully self-supporting.

Their second financial responsibility is to help support the fellowship itself. For this reason, once groups have accumulated sufficient money to pay their normal expenses and perhaps set aside a prudent reserve (such as for convention planning or unforeseen contingencies), they are encouraged to donate their excess funds to the WSO (and any local intergroup or national service board to which they belong) to help sustain FA's essential services.

Groups can donate their *surplus funds* using the same processes described above for individual FA members. They can likewise make single-event *gratitude donations*, *celebratory donations*, and *in memoriam donations*. They can also schedule *recurring donations* of a specific amount to be sent to the WSO each month or fiscal quarter throughout the year.

Even modest amounts, donated regularly, can have a significant impact on the fellowship's well-being.

Help FA continue to do great things by committing your group to making regular donations to the WSO as well as to any national service board or intergroup of which you are a part.

FAMILIES ANONYMOUS, INC.

World Service Office • 701 Lee Street, Suite 670 • Des Plaines, IL 60016
(847) 294-5877 • (800) 736-9805 [USA only] • fax: (847) 294-5837

Website: www.FamiliesAnonymous.org
E-mail: famanon@FamiliesAnonymous.org



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