

North Florida Area 9, Public Outreach Project

Panel 61, Year 3

Final Report

The role of Public Outreach Coordinator for North Florida Area Al-Anon Family Groups has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. Our success, over the last three years, is attributable to the financial and administrative support of the Area and to the unwavering support of my team.

So many times I felt hopeless, frustrated, confused, worried, and overcome with grief at the magnitude of the problems of working with large institutions and upholding our commitment to make a difference. In every instance, I could pick up the phone and reach out to Charon, Heath, or Mike and know with absolute certainty that I was speaking with someone who knew all the details of every decision and who could help me reason out whatever it was that I was facing. In addition, the calm, supportive demeanor of our Area Treasurer, Mark, inspired me to be relaxed and know that the handling of our financial needs was assured.

I understand fully why it is so difficult to attract and keep volunteers at the district level who can work with institutions. They are surrounded by invisible walls meant to keep others out. In some cases it is a phone system that takes you round and round and round again while yielding no tangible results. Other times, it is that the institutions have a high turnover. You find out during your follow up call that you almost have to begin again. There is also a trial of finding someone willing to take responsibility for making a decision and once identified, the time consuming nature of the decision making and documentation processes themselves.

Our spiritual principles have been paramount to my serenity and sense of accomplishment. I have grown tremendously. I live in gratitude, faith and trust.

Once the verbal report is given at Assembly, the full facts and figures and numbers and names of institutions that we have benefited together will be posted here. Until then, stay tuned.

And thank you!

Diane M.

Public Outreach Coordinator

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