

Attracting Members to Service

Spiritual Benefits of Service---just a few excerpts from our literature

Just for Today, May 1, “Self-worth and Service”

When most of us arrived in Narcotics Anonymous, we had very little self-worth left to salvage. Many members say that they began to develop self-esteem through being of service early in their recovery. Something just short of a miracle occurs when we begin to have a positive impact on others' lives through our service efforts.



Just for Today, August 6, “The Joy Within”

When have we found joy? When we've offered ourselves in service to others, without expectation of reward.



Basic Text, “The Spirit of Service”

When I started service work, I realized how sick I was. Attention seeking, self-centeredness, selfishness, resentment, the desire for revenge, and many of my other character defects got in the way and caused problems for other members. One day at a time, our fellowship continued its growth, and I grew up and got wiser as well. A little at a time I got in touch with humility, God-centeredness, acceptance, forgiveness, and other spiritual principles.



Living Clean, “The Journey Continues: Being of Service”

Service changes our relationship to our own lives. We learn to put love and gratitude into action, and when we mobilize our good feelings they have a way of spreading through all our affairs. We are confronted with our defects—and with each other's—and we find a way to work through them. “The first time I chaired a committee, I discovered the true meaning of principles before personalities. Boy, did I grow!” a member chuckled. In service we meet others who are passionate about their recovery, and that excitement keeps us energized. For those of us who have always had difficulty fitting in, service can give us something to do—and a reason to stay to the end of the meeting, the workshop, or the dance. In the meantime, we make the connections that change our lives. We learn about recovery in the process of serving, but also in the margins of the service we do: In the talks while we're setting up or cleaning up for an event, or on the long ride to a service commitment, we make connections with others who are serious about recovery. A member shared: “I've had to close my mouth when I wanted to open it and open my mouth when I wanted to close it. I've had to try doing new things and stop doing old things that are no longer working. I've had to learn to ask for help, to delegate responsibilities, take risks, and share. I've had to clean up some disgusting messes—both literal and figurative. Why do I serve? It reinforces all the work I do in the steps.”



**Upon this
common ground
we stand
committed.**

