

## EVOLUTION OF AN AREA

### An Up-To-Date History of NA in the City of Indianapolis, Indiana

The phenomenal growth of NA in the Indianapolis, Indiana, has been typical throughout the country. Today, recovery is available to more addicts than ever before. At the end of April of last year, there was only one meeting and today there are nine.

The first meeting of the active Fellowship today met on September 18, 1980. At this first meeting, which began on the city's West side there were three addicts seeking NA recovery present. By early 1981, the meeting outgrew the small kitchenette area it had originally met in. The "Support Group Discussion" then moved into a larger meeting room in the same building where it remains today. As many as 60 addicts have been present on a few given Thursday evenings. When more than 30 persons are present, the group now splits into 2 separate groups to make sure that everyone gets a chance to share.

By early summer of 1981, the need was seen for a Step discussion meeting. The membership had grown enough to support 2 meetings and on Tuesday, May 19, the "Recovery Step Meeting" was born. The meeting was started by reading the only document written on NA recovery at that time; the "Gray Manuscript." This literature study meeting proved to be vital in the recoveries of many addicts in the city.

With the growing desire to carry the message of NA, especially to the suffering addict in the hospital treatment programs, the first open speaker meeting in Indianapolis came along on Friday, July 3rd, 1981.

There were three meetings in the city then and as the patients from that hospital kept coming back, the Fellowship started to flourish. With more than one group, there became a need for some kind of a meeting directory to let new members know all three meetings existed. The city's first meeting cards were printed and distributed in July of that year.

As the growing process continued, a mini-lead/discussion meeting, known as the "Never Alone Group", held its first meeting on Wednesday, August 12th. This meeting provided the opportunity to hear a speaker and to also share in discussion.

In October of that same year, the need had arisen to develop a more unified service structure for the growing area. On Tuesday, October 6th, interested members met to form a local Area Service Committee. Originally this committee was called the Indianapolis/Anderson ASC. The neighboring city of Anderson joined up after their meeting was started on Thursday, August 13 of 1981. In order to unify the meetings in the central band of Indiana, the committee was renamed the Central Indiana ASC after Richmond, Indiana was represented in November.

In November, 1981 the approval copy of the NA Basic Text on Recovery became available. It was derived from input to the previous "Gray Manuscript." With this milestone in the growth of NA as a whole, two more meetings sprang up in the city that month. One was a second Tuesday meeting; an institutional discussion and the other was our first afternoon meeting, which met on Sundays at a hospital on the city's East side.

There were then six different NA meetings available for addicts seeking recovery. The growth of NA during 1981 had been tremendous and as a result, a great number of addicts were able to ring in 1982 clean and sober. Gratitude prevailed.

The 7th meeting arrived on Monday January 18th, 1982. The "Metamorphosis Group" which is a ladies' discussion, meets monthly; the third Monday of the month. Like the Wednesday night group, the meeting format is also speaker/discussion.

On March 13th, a Saturday morning breakfast meeting was started. This Step meeting was named the "Over Easy Group" and is the first of its kind in the area.

In April of 1982 we learned <sup>that</sup> we ~~learned~~ our efforts of trying to plant the NA seed in the Indiana Girl's School had been fruitful.

The first meeting was on April 22nd which will meet periodically at this correctional facility. Since October of 1981, many local members have been traveling out to attend the "Hilltop Group" at the Indiana State Farm. Today the ASC's Hospitals and Institutions Sub-Committee continues to plant the NA seed in Institutions like these two.

Our newest meeting here in the city is a Monday night literature study meeting known as the "Fresh Start Meeting" which met for the first time on April 26th. It is one of the first groups locally to be held in a recovery residence facility. Because it meets in the same building as the Women's meeting, the group will hold it's 3rd meeting of the month as Men's topic discussion.

Today in Indianapolis, it is possible for addicts to attend an NA meeting on every day of the week which is a dream turn<sup>to</sup> reality. We are grateful to the local AA Fellowship for encouragement during our primitive stages of growth. Also our thanks goes out to them for directing suffering addicts in need to a Fellowship where they can relate to other addicts who are recovering.