



## Where Does Our Area Abundance Come From?

The first time that members discover the Area, they may be curious how it receives the financial *support* it needs to operate and provide services.

We give to the Area because we care and have a deep sense of commitment to Al-Anon. Funding for the Area comes from the *gratitude* of its members, donations from the groups and financial support from other service arms. Another method of support is through the *abundance* from fundraisers.

### Donations

When members observe the *Seventh Tradition* by putting a donation in the basket, they can *envision* that a share of that donation goes to help *sustain* their various service arms, including the Area. Individual members or other service arms, like a District, can also forward on their *abundance* in *gratitude* to the Area for the services it provides. *Planning* for the future by placing an Area donation *goal* into a budget is a healthy financial practice.

### Fundraisers

Many Areas hold an Area wide fundraiser such as an event at an Area Assembly like a raffle or auction. These fundraisers can help give an important financial boost to the Area income. For more information about fundraisers refer to the *2014-2017 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual* (P-24/27).

## How Does Our Area “Carry the Message” With Our Finances?

We’ve identified the spiritual aspects of finances and how money is raised for the Area. Now, let’s look at how it is spent. Through our recovery we found that to keep it, we had to give it away. This means being *willing* to reach out and have *courage* that we have something to offer our group, our District and our Area in service.

No one needs to have money in order to serve. We are all *equal*. *We are a resource*. Stepping forward to be a coordinator or officer at the Area level, you are trusted with *respect, honesty, knowing your role* and having the *integrity* to perform service.

Being of *service* means we *volunteer* our time, our talents and ourselves. It does not necessarily mean donating our money to perform service.

We support our *trusted servants* to get the message out to the public and our members. Whether they are Area Secretary, the Literature Coordinator or the Public Outreach Coordinator, we need to give them the funds they need in order to perform the duties of their roles.

When we see the attraction of *responsible delegation* and can *trust the process* by which they are elected or appointed into their roles, we can be assured they are using the *spiritual principles of honesty, integrity and respect* as they make financial decisions in their roles.

## The Spirituality of Financial Responsibility

In discussions of Area finances, the last but certainly not least factor to be considered is who will be handling the money. The Area budget communicates in financial terms the *spiritual principles, priorities and dreams* identified by the Area in its discussions of finances. The Area then demonstrates its *faith* in its *trusted servants* by giving them the *authority and responsibility* of fulfilling their assigned tasks within the financial constraints defined in the budget. These *trusted servants* demonstrate *accountability* of the money they have spent through their reports back to the Area. Often the accountability takes two forms. One may be the direct report that the coordinator or officer gives to the Area. The other may be in the process by which expenses are reimbursed and audited by the Area Treasurer, or an audit or budget committee.

During the course of financial discussions, the Area might also want to consider how to address extraordinary circumstances that may fall outside the Area budget. For example: How are decisions made to take advantage of a public outreach opportunity that was not apparent when the budget was approved? Looking at finances as a means of demonstrating *spiritual principles* helps identify in general terms who can accept that *responsibility*.