

The Pink Can

What is the Pink Can?

The Pink Can is a way for groups to collect spare change for the purchase of AA literature for those who are confined or hospitalized. It is a request for additional contributions, in the same way some groups pass the 7th Tradition basket a second time or ask for \$2. Typically, it is an empty coffee can wrapped in pink paper—an idea that developed nearly 60 years ago.

The History of the Pink Can

The Pink Can idea originated in the Northern California Area in 1957. As the area Hospitals and Institutions Committee (H&I) rapidly expanded, the need for literature continued to increase. Someone came up with the idea of passing around a can at meetings, explaining that the pocket change dropped into the can was intended for alcoholics in prisons and hospitals. How to make the cans stand out? Paint them pink. The idea caught on, and now groups across North America and some throughout the world use the Pink Can.

Did you know...?

The New York Inter-Group Corrections and Treatment Facilities Committee (CTFC) contributions are down \$7,000—from \$29,000 last year to an estimated \$22,000 for this year. The amount of literature given out has also increased. A.A. members are picking up more literature packets each month. CTFC literature packets cost between \$15 and \$17 *each*.

How does the Pink Can work?

Some groups make an announcement about the Pink Can and pass it after the 7th Tradition basket. Other groups keep the Pink Can on their literature table and make an announcement about it during the information break. Traditionally, group treasurers often handle the additional contributions, but some groups turn that responsibility into a separate service position. Please mail contributions for CTFC to:

New York Inter-Group Office; 307 Seventh Avenue; Suite 201; New York, NY 10001.

Make checks payable to “*New York Inter-Group*” and write “**CTFC–Pink Can**” in the memo.

You can either allocate a specific amount of money or a percentage. Remember, if your group already contributes regularly, please continue doing so—the Pink Can is intended to *increase* contributions. The Pink Can does not violate the A.A. Tradition that we are self-supporting through our own contributions. The Pink Can is not intended to detract from your Home Group’s normal 7th Tradition distribution of contributions. The only purpose of the pink can is to provide A.A. Conference Approved literature to those confined behind the walls.

What a positive way to turn pocket change into the promises of the A.A. message!