

FWS Feels The Economic Pinch – How You Can Help

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As you have heard more often than not, economically speaking, things are tough all over. That includes the Fellowship Wide Services, Inc. (FWS) and the FWS Office in San Antonio, Texas. Literature orders have slowed, contributions are not what they were in the recent past, and the General Manager has had to decrease staff hours and close the office on Fridays to make ends meet. In short, FWS is practicing the 7th Tradition and would benefit from the Fellowship's membership stepping up and doing the same.

My first thought was "If things are so bad all over, how could we possibly ask for help?" My answer did not come as easy as I had hoped; however, I do know that this Fellowship has survived for as long as it has solely by the contributions of its membership through good times and bad times. This is not about asking for a handout, this is about living up to and being committed to the Traditions of the Fellowship.

Our 7th Tradition states that "Every S.L.A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions." We do not have the luxury other non-profit organizations have, to raise funds wherever (and however) they can to make ends meet. We survive on the generosity of our own members.

As the economic downturn looks like it is not going to end any time soon, here are some suggestions for helping in the short term:

- November is Gratitude Month. Groups can "pass the basket" a second time at your regular meeting as a donation to FWS (divide the proceeds using the 60/40 Pamphlet as a guide to help your Intergroup as well. The pamphlet is available for download and printing at <http://www.slaafws.org/pamphlets/6040.pdf>)
- Organize an event to encourage socializing in the fellowship with the stated purpose of raising funds for FWS. One suggestion is to have a Gratitude Dinner (pot luck) with an auction (items donated by local members) with all proceeds going to FWS.
- Regular contribution. The group sends a donation every month, every two months, or quarterly.
- Anniversary contribution. Individuals celebrate their S.L.A.A. anniversary by giving one dollar for every year or a penny a day in the program.
- Individual contributions may be sent directly to the F.W.S. Office. Your group may be credited if you so request. Limit: \$12,000 per year.

The services provided by FWS benefit the recovering sex and love addict, the member who still suffers as well as the addict who is trying to find help and recovery. As we all need help, FWS in turn needs yours. Please ask yourself and your group/Intergroup what can you do to help?

I encourage you to share your ideas and ways of raising funds for FWS for the next FWS Newsletter deadline Sunday February 14, 2010.