

# **NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS NEWSLETTER IN HAMILTON AREA**

**November 2024 ISSUE**



<https://nahamilton.org>



**W**elcome to the **Narcotics Anonymous** newsletter of the **Hamilton Ontario** area! **We** are part of a global organization dedicated to helping those affected by substance abuse and addiction. **We** offer support through our meetings, group activities, and events. **O**ur aim is to provide a safe and supportive environment where members can share their experiences, strength and hope, while learning from each other. **We** also provide resources and information to those seeking help. **O**ur members come from all walks of life and have all kinds of backgrounds and experiences. **We** believe that no matter how long someone has been using, they can find relief from addiction. **We** offer a wide range of activities to help our members feel supported and empowered. **T**his includes organized meetings, group activities, and events such as movie nights, game nights, and recreational activities. **We** also have a volunteer program to help our members pursue their goals. **O**ur newsletter contains updates on our activities, upcoming events, and other helpful resources. **We** strive to provide our members with the support and resources they need to get, and stay clean. **We** hope you will join us in our mission to provide support and resources to those affected by substance abuse and addiction. **T**hanks for joining us!



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## WHO WE ARE

A member of Narcotics Anonymous (NA). Membership is not limited to addicts using any particular drug. Those who feel that they may have a problem with drugs, legal or illegal, including alcohol, are welcome in NA. Recovery in NA focuses on the problem of addiction, and not on any particular drug.

## WHAT WE ARE

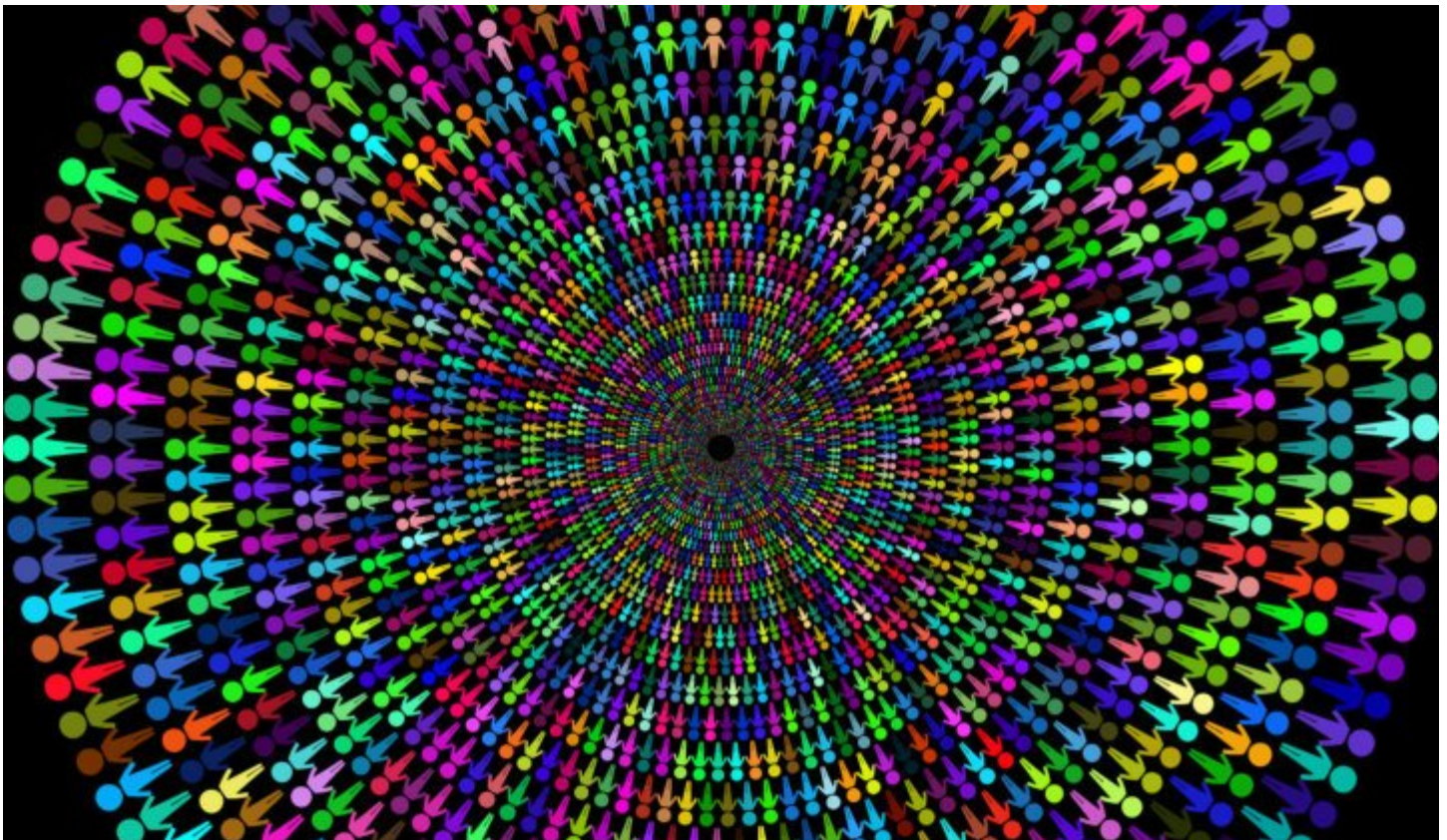
Narcotics Anonymous is a nonprofit fellowship or society of humans for whom drugs had become a major problem. We are recovering addicts who meet regularly to help each other stay clean.





## WHERE WE ARE

Most NA meetings are held regularly at the same location. There are two basic types of meetings; those that are open to the public and those that are closed to the public (for addicts only.) NA meetings are informally structured. The function of any meeting is always the same. To provide a suitable and reliable environment for personal recovery.





## **FOR THE NEWCOMER**

You don't have to be clean (drug free) when you get here, but after your first meeting we suggest that you keep coming back and come clean. You don't have to wait for an overdose or a jail sentence to get help from N.A., nor is addiction a hopeless condition from which there is no relief from the desire to use drugs.

## **WHAT IS OUR MESSAGE**

What is our message? The message is that an addict, any addict, can stop using drugs, lose the desire to use, and find a new way to live. Our message is hope and the promise of freedom. When all is said and done, our primary purpose can only be to carry the message to the addict who still suffers because that is all we have to give.



# AN ADDICT ALONE IS IN BAD COMPANY

Having difficulty dealing with reality? Call someone in NA. Ask people at meetings to write their name and phone number on a piece of paper or add it to your contact list on your cell phone, so you'll have an alternative to being in your own bad company.







## MEETING FORMAT LEGEND

<b>B:</b> Beginners	<b>BK:</b> Book Study
<b>BT:</b> Basic Text	<b>C:</b> Closed
<b>D:</b> Discussion	<b>JT:</b> Just for Today
<b>LC:</b> Living Clean	<b>O:</b> Open
<b>QA:</b> Question and Answers	<b>SO:</b> Speaker Meeting
<b>SPAD:</b> Spiritual Principle A Day	<b>VM:</b> Virtual Meeting
<b>WC:</b> Wheelchair	

## HELPLINES

English	(888) 811-3887
French	(800) 385-7247
Farsi	(888) 377-7881

## SERVICE MEETINGS

Hamilton Area Service Committee: It's on the 3rd Saturday of each month at 170 Dundurn Street South at 10:00 am



Date and Time	Name of NA Group Meeting	Address	Meeting Format Legend
Sunday: 9:30am (1 hr)	Recovery in the Park	Gage Park We meet outside near the Children's Garden and baseball diamond next to the parking lot off Lawrence Rd. Inclement weather: meeting held in the Greenhouse., 42 Lawrence Rd, Hamilton, ON, L8M 1N6	O, D, IW, WC
Sunday: 7:00pm (1.5 hr)	Courage to Change	170 Dundurn Street First Unitarian Street South Hamilton ON, L8P 4K3	O, D, JT, WC, BK
Sunday: 7:30pm (1.5 hr)	Clean and Free Group	1831 King Street East Hamilton ON, L8K 1V8 (Anglican Church of the Nativity at Barons)	O, BT, So, WC
Monday: 7:00pm (1.5 hr)	An intro to Narcotics Anonymous. (This meeting is designed for peopple who are new to NA so you can get your questions answered and find the help you need)	(Virtual Meeting)	B, QA, VM
Monday: 7:00pm (1.5hr)	Pride in Recovery  This is a women and LGBTQ2+ focused meeting	93 West Avenue South Hamilton ON, L8N 1S1 (Central Memorial Recreation Center ) Located in craft room upstairs	C, D, BK, LGBTQ+
Monday: 7:30pm (1.5 hr)	H.O.W. Group	100 West 5th Street Hamilton ON, L9C 3R2 - Enter off Fennell outside the auditorium (Saint Joseph's Healthcare, Enter off Fennell Ave, through lobby to Seminar Room A217)	O, D, WC, BK



Tuesday: 7:00pm (1.25 hr)	Mountain Freedom Group	1300 Fennell Avenue East Hamilton ON, L8T 1T6 (Bus: Upper Kenilworth to Fennell)	O, D, WC, BK
Wednesday: 7:00pm (1.5 hr)	New Beginnings Group	Stoney Creek United Church, Entrance off of Lake Ave S Board Room, 2nd Floor, 1 King St West, Stoney Creek, ON, L8G 1G7	O, D, JT, LC
Thursday: 12:00 pm (1.5 hr)	Spiritual Awakenings	155 Ottawa St N, Hamilton, ON L8H 3Z2 (Laidlaw United Church	O, JT, SPAD
Thursday: 7:00pm (1.25 hr)	Strong Hold Recovery	720 Ninth Avenue Hamilton ON, L8T 2A3 (Trinity Presbyterian Church)	O
Thursday: 7:30pm (1 hr)	River Edge Group	174 Caithness Street East Caledonia ON, N3W 1C2 (Grace United Church, Fellowship room.)	WC, BK
Friday: 5:30pm (1.5 hr)	Friday Night Group	70 James Street South Hamilton ON, L8P 2Y8 (Saint Paul's Presbyterian Church)	C, BT, D
Friday: 7:30pm-8:30pm (1 hr)	The Journey Continues	181 Jackson Street West Hamilton ON, L8P 1L8 Community Room, Main Floor	
Saturday: 1:30pm (1.5 hr)	Learn to Live Group	115 Stanley Avenue Hamilton ON, L8P 2L5 (Blessings Christian Church, Corner of Locke and Stanley. Parking is off Stanley)	O, BT, D
Saturday: 7:00pm (1.5 hr)	The Recovery Room	St. Paul's United Church, 42 Tragina Ave N, Hamilton, ON, L8H 5C5 Fellowship Conversation.	WC



# Just for today Reading (Taken from JFT reading)

Awakening

November 1

*"God helps us as we help each other"*

Basic Text, p. 52

Our addiction caused us to think almost exclusively of ourselves. Even our prayers - if we prayed at all - were self-centered. We asked God to fix things for us or get us out of trouble.

Why? Because we didn't want to live with the problems we'd created for ourselves. We were insecure. We thought life was about *getting*,  
and we always wanted more.

And in recovery we *get* more - more than just not using. The spiritual awakening we experience in working the Twelve Steps reveals to us a life we never dreamed possible. We no longer need to worry about whether there will be "enough," for we come to rely on a loving Higher Power who meets all our daily needs. Relieved of our incessant insecurity, we no longer see the world as a place in which to compete with others for the fulfillment of our desires. Instead, we see the world as a place in which to live our the love our Higher Power has shown us. Our prayers are not for instant gratification; they are for help in  
helping each other.

Recovery awakens us from the nightmare of self-centeredness, strife, and insecurity that lies at the core of our disease. We wake up to a new reality: All that is worth having can be kept only by giving it away.

**Just for today:** My god helps me as I help others. Today, I will seek help in giving away the love my Higher Power has given me, knowing that is the way to keep it.



# Highs and Lows:

## My path to Recovery

Hi there. My name is Aaron, and I'm an addict. I found NA recently, and it's the only thing that kept me clean.

I was born in the 1980's in Toronto to young parents who were both addicts. My dad was barely there as I grew up, and my mom did her best despite her addiction. We were blessed when my stepdad came into our lives when I was four.

Throughout my childhood, I struggled at school and fitting in. I was constantly told I was bright but felt like something was missing. By 12, I was experimenting with drugs, and by 14, I was hooked. I spent the next 26 years getting high, struggling with school and work, and trying to be a good father to my son.

Eventually, I met an amazing woman who accepted me for who I was. We moved to Hamilton, and my son came to live with us as his mother's addiction worsened. Sadly, my child's mother died of an overdose less than a year after he moved in with my wife and I.

At that point, I decided to get clean. It was a struggle, but in September 2024, I found the NA helpline, which led me to my first meeting. That was how I got my first 24 hours. Now, as my first month clean approaches, I am grateful for the support I've found in NA.

I have met wonderful people in these rooms and feel a love and acceptance I've rarely felt. I am excited to choose life and live on life's terms. I am ready to work through the 12 steps, work with a sponsor, and hopefully help others along the way.

I am going to keep coming back. Thank you Narcotics Anonymous!



# SUBMIT A STORY



Do you have a special story, experience, or moment that you would like to share? Whether it is a funny or a touching moment, we want to hear from you! We are always looking for great stories that we can share with the world. If you would like to share yours, simply email it to [newsletter@nahamilton.org](mailto:newsletter@nahamilton.org). Be sure to include only your first name and a brief description of your story. We are looking forward to hearing from you!





# Anniversaries

Sunday November 3rd: Alex D is celebrating 15  
years @ Courage to Change

November 7th: Jay R is celebrating 23 years @  
Spiritual Awakenings @ noon

Sunday November 10th: Mike M is celebrating  
34 years @ Clean and Free

Sunday November 17th: James S is celebrating 12  
years @ Courage to Change

Sunday November 24th: Kosta C is celebrating 3  
years @ Courage to Change



# Service Work

Are you interested in doing service work? Get involved with the Activities Committee. No clean time requirements. Please send an e-mail to [activities@nahamilton.org](mailto:activities@nahamilton.org) to get involved.

Do you have bookkeeping experience? Get involved in the service! You must have 3 years clean time or longer to qualify.

The HASCNA committee is in need of a Treasurer. For more information, please attend the next HASC meeting or contact Brenda V, at [secretary@nahamilton.org](mailto:secretary@nahamilton.org)

Check out if your own home Group needs help!

- GSR & Alternate
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Literature Representative (Some groups have a group Lit Rep)

The Hamilton Area (HASCNA) has several positions open for

election: Alternate Treasurer, Regional Committee Member

(RCM) and RCM II, and Service System Coordinator. You must

be present at HASC in order to be nominated for any position.



## NA Quote

"Enjoy all the world has to offer  
as you navigate it in recovery.  
You've opened up more than you  
could imagine."



Thank you so much for taking the time to read the Narcotics Anonymous of Hamilton Newsletter. Narcotics Anonymous is a fellowship of individuals who share their experience, strength, and hope with each other that they may solve their common problems and help others to recover from their addiction to drugs and alcohol. We offer a safe, supportive, and non-judgmental environment for members to work together to overcome their addiction and lead productive, healthy, and meaningful lives. The Narcotics Anonymous of Hamilton newsletter is designed to keep members and the community informed on what we are doing, upcoming events, and news from our group. Our newsletter also contains stories of recovery and hope that inspire and motivate members. We hope that you have gained insight and inspiration from reading this newsletter and that it has helped you to better understand the work that we do and the lives that we touch in our community. Thank you again for your interest and support of Narcotics Anonymous and our Hamilton group.

## Website:

<https://nahamilton.org/>

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