

The miracle continues... in Latin America.

The message from NA arrived to this part of the world in the early 80's even though there is history of a first NA meeting in 1972. The Fellowship started in the late 80's and then there were NA communities formed in the early and late 90's which means that our NA family has not stopped growing since we first got the message of hope and it keeps on growing....

Many of our communities got started thanks to the efforts of addicts who attended AA meetings, since in their countries NA was not known, and to the members who cooperated with the first NA meetings, they obtained firm basis for its growth, and, in a lot of cases, they visit a NA member who came from de USA and this meant the message arrived to our land and we have also had the non-profit help of professionals and church personalities who allowed the first NA meetings in our countries. The Fellowship came up with several names before it really identified itself with the one we actually know around the world. Some of those names were anonymous addicts, substance dependents and naturally what these groups were doing was using AA's literature, only changing the word "alcohol" for the word "drugs".

The first meetings were held at rehab centers, schools and even abandoned houses. Slowly the message was spread in our countries thanks to our member's efforts, which also started contact with the WSO, and this is how we started getting info and orientation about how the program and the Fellowship got started. It also helped being in contact with each other by way of phone and attending events and conventions organized by every community. By the same token, a spirit of Fellowship started being developed among the communities of our continent. Since our languages are basically Spanish and Portuguese, it was difficult to translate communications with the WSO nevertheless; there have always been members who have volunteered to translate recovery literature, which was also scarce at the beginning.

The Fellowship started growing. A few years' later NA committees started being formed thanks to the experience shared as well as a structure to provide services and public information, hospitals and institutions, toll free lines and literature distribution. At this time we have more than 1200 groups in Latin America, and more than 3000 weekly meetings. NA communities established in Latin America are located in Argentina, Baja-Son (Mexico), Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, México, Nicaragua, Occidente México, Panamá, Perú, Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, Uruguay, Venezuela and recently Cuba and Paraguay. All these communities meet to share our experience, strength and hope and to help each other in collective growth.

It has been a long road to get where we are. The great distances, large population and the critical financial situation in our countries have always been a factor against NA growth in Latin America, but the recovery spirit and the feeling of unity in the Fellowship make our hearts beat and encourages us to keep on spreading the NA message to other addicts.

At the present time we are in the final phase of a two year project to write, select gather and publish stories about recovery of our Latin America members in 2nd edition of our Basic Text in Spanish.

We will not forget that the 28th WCNA took place in Latin America for many of our member this was the main and probably the only chance to attend a WCNA.

Although it was one of the smallest conventions in recent years, we know it was also unforgettable for many NA members from other parts of the world who had the chance to meet our people. We love you and we are grateful and proud to belong to the NA family around the world.

Family of NA in Latin America