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¡Bienvenidos a AA! / Welcome to AA!

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I'm the secretary of the St. Cloud Intergroup in Minnesota. I'd like to share a story with all of you about how cooperation and collaboration resulted in the first ever Spanish-speaking AA meeting in Central Minnesota.

Almost a decade ago, we set out to help start a Spanish-language AA meeting in our area. We have a large Hispanic community here in Central Minnesota, but we had no Spanish-language AA meetings. The closest Spanish-language meeting was almost 90 minutes from our town. That meant that a person who wanted to attend Spanish-language AA was on the road for three hours to get to and from a meeting. That simply wasn't acceptable.

Thus, we put out a call for volunteers to get the meeting started. Our Intergroup was ready to provide support in the way of Spanish translations of literature, AA books and other forms of help, but it was a long, slow process. Occasionally, we would get one volunteer to chair the meeting but no one else would step forward to help. After a few weeks of meeting by himself, our volunteer would go elsewhere, and we would start all over again.

This process continued for nearly a decade until a member named Eduardo came to one of our Intergroup meetings. He explained that he was the district committee chair for District 27 in Area 36 of South Minnesota. He told us how District 27 wasn't a geographic area but a cultural area of Spanish-speaking AA members who were very interested in starting a Spanish-language meeting in Central Minnesota. We were elated to begin cooperating. Eduardo started the first ever Spanish-language AA meeting in our area of Minnesota with the help of the St. Cloud Intergroup.

We hope this short story illustrates the power of collaboration and cooperation. We are stronger together. The Intergroup saw a need but didn't have the human resources to provide the service. Eduardo could provide the human resources but lacked some of the financial resources to get a group going. Together, we were able to establish a meeting to better meet the needs of AA members in our area.

The AA Grapevine online store has a variety of books, ebooks and other publications full of inspiring stories of fellow AAs on their journey to recovery.

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