



# TeamstersCare/Teamsters Local 25 R.A.F.T. Program

TeamstersCare recognizes that in today’s complex world, the meaning of “health” goes well beyond the kind of issues covered by traditional medicine. One particular concern, substance abuse, affects our entire community. To that extent, it threatens the health of Teamster members and their families.

**R.A.F.T.** was established in November 1972 when a small group of recovering alcoholics, all members of Teamsters Local 25, founded the **Referral and Follow-up Team (R.A.F.T.) Program**. Acting anonymously and under their own direction, **R.A.F.T.** volunteers have focused on helping fellow members help themselves in the struggle against alcoholism and now drug abuse. Today, the Program continues stronger than ever, supported by the efforts of volunteer Teamsters and the absolute commitment of President Sean M. O’Brien and the Board of Trustees.

The basic purpose of **R.A.F.T.** is to provide members with the immediate support of fellow Teamsters as part of a transition to the broader-based assistance of Alcoholics and/or Narcotics Anonymous.

Because the first step in this kind of treatment is often the toughest, **R.A.F.T.** keeps its doors open in a number of ways.

**R.A.F.T.** volunteers introduce themselves to union members who have been:

- Hospitalized for detox or rehabilitation
- Referred to the Program by employers who see evidence of a problem on the job, or

- Referred by Business Agent or other Union Official.

Members who suspect or recognize a problem in themselves are welcome. **R.A.F.T.** volunteers spend time getting to know each member

personally, and share ideas about what’s likely to work (and not work) based on their own experience.

Volunteers accompany the member to **R.A.F.T.’s** regular Wednesday night and/or Saturday morning

meetings. One immediate goal is to introduce the member to Alcoholics or Narcotics Anonymous. Through every step of this process, **R.A.F.T.** volunteers stay the course—as partners, colleagues, and friends.

**R.A.F.T. meets 7:00 p.m. every Wednesday in the Day Room at the Local 25 Union Hall, 544 Main St, Charlestown, MA and 9:00 a.m. every Saturday at the TeamstersCare Stoughton Facility at 1214 Park St, Stoughton, MA.\***

**If you think you have any kind of problem with any kind of substance, come to a meeting and talk with other Teamsters. There’s a good chance you’ll find help for yourself. There’s an equal chance you can help somebody else.**

\*No meetings in July and August.