



November 2023

# NH COMMUNITY BAIL FUND

*Decarcerate America*

Welcome to the start of the holiday season! As we all gather with friends and family, our thoughts turn to helping our larger communities too, especially including our neighbors who are dealing with injustice and hardship.

In October, **we paid 15 bails**. And, on October 4, members of the bail fund had the opportunity to speak to a subcommittee of the NH House Criminal Justice Committee about **bills related to pre-trial detention** that they're working on this year. Volunteers Paul and Andy did a fantastic job informing the committee members about the experiences our neighbors have had being caught in the bail system. This will be a hot issue for the upcoming legislative session, so please stay tuned.

With the holiday giving season upon us, we'd like to take this time to ask all of you to support us. As a small, all-volunteer group, we can't organize the big fundraising campaigns that larger nonprofits can. But please know that **your donations truly make the difference between freedom and continued imprisonment** for some of the most vulnerable people in our communities. If you can make a recurring **monthly donation**, that's

especially helpful in letting us keep meeting our commitment to help those who reach out to us. Donate here: <https://tinyurl.com/28vrkjtr>. Or, to donate by mail, please make a check payable to UU Action NH with "Bail Fund" in the memo line. Mail checks to PO Box 3862, Manchester NH 03105. And if you're interested in volunteering in any capacity please contact us at [info@uuactionnh.org](mailto:info@uuactionnh.org).

While we're at it, another request: We're eager to reach more people to share what we've learned about pre-trial detention in this state and expand our community of support for our neighbors facing jail. If you have a **local club, faith community, or other organization** that would be interested in hosting a talk by a bail fund volunteer, please reach out to us at [info@uuactionnh.org](mailto:info@uuactionnh.org).

And, as always, **if someone you know is in jail** and can't afford bail, please email [bailreferral@googlegroups.com](mailto:bailreferral@googlegroups.com).

With gratitude,  
The NH Community Bail Fund team

We recently heard from a man we'll call J. He didn't need his bail paid but did need a ride. It turned out that J had spent five months in Cheshire County Jail on a drug charge. While there, he completed a voluntary program to help deal better with life's challenges. After graduating from the program, he was to be released to the Behavioral Health Court in Keene. To celebrate the graduates, the jail had a pizza party. In the middle of the graduation, someone from the sheriff's office showed up and told him he had to go to Manchester due to an old case. J was taken away without even getting a slice of pizza! When he got to Valley Street Jail, it turned out that he had PR on that case, meaning that he wouldn't be held in jail. But now he was in Manchester, with no money and no way back to Keene. Fortunately, a Bail Fund volunteer was able to drive him all the way back so that he could start his program. We wish J all the best in getting his life back on track!