It’s December! We hope you’re getting the chance to connect with those you love this month, and we want to express our deep appreciation for all that you’ve done to help our neighbors get back home to their loved ones for the holidays.

Speaking of which, thanks to all of your support, we got seven people out of jail in the two days before Thanksgiving. Two of them were held on bails of just $50. Without your help, they probably would have been stuck in jail on minor charges for the whole long holiday weekend. Overall, we set a new monthly record for our fund by paying 25 bails in November.

This is the story of one of the neighbors we bailed out the day before Thanksgiving, a 50-year-old women we’ll call H. H was visiting her sister, “N,” and bringing some presents for her family. She knew N suffers from mental health problems and was going through a stressful personal and financial situation. The two women ended up in a physical fight, and H called the police in the hopes of getting her sister into a mental health facility for a few days to help with the issues she was having. Instead, H was arrested and ended up at Valley Street Jail for six days. During that time she couldn’t get access to her medications, which were in the evidence locker at the police station. H had also been suffering from pneumonia even before going to visit her sister, which got worse while she was locked up. Once she got out, she had to go to the emergency department to be seen, but she was eager to get home as soon as possible to take care of her cat.

Since this is the season when many people give money to good causes, let’s talk about the bail fund’s finances. We operate as a revolving fund, which means that when the folks we’ve helped get their cases resolved, the money we used to bail them out comes back to the fund. We estimate that about 80% of what we pay in bails eventually returns to us. However, it can take over a year for this to happen. And since our work has grown dramatically this year, the money returning to us from bails we paid in 2021 doesn’t come close to matching the current need. Can you help keep our operation running smoothly into 2023 by making a one-time or recurring tax-deductible donation at tinyurl.com/ypdazk9k? Or, to donate by mail, please make a check payable to UUANH with “Bail Fund” in the memo line. Mail checks to PO Box 3862, Manchester NH 03105.

As always, we’re also looking for more volunteers. If you’d like to learn more, please write to us at info@uuanh.org. And, last, if someone you know is in jail and can’t afford bail, please reach out to us at bailreferral@googlegroups.com!

With gratitude for all your help and support,
The NH Community Bail Fund team: Andy, Curt, Jessica, Livia, Paul, and Sarah