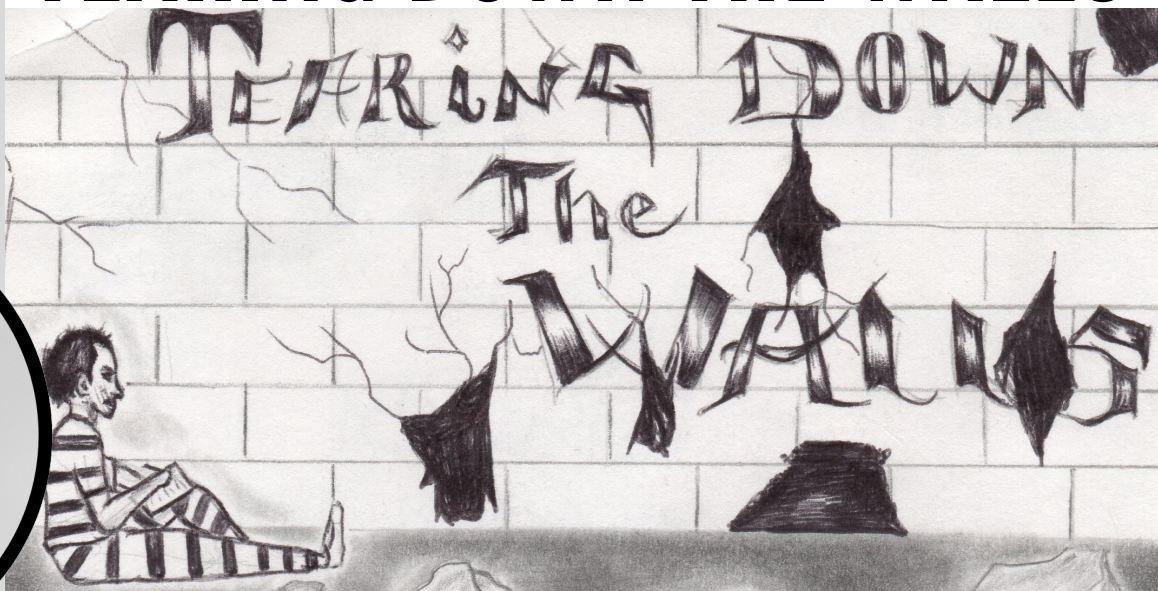


happy holidays from CHIP  
you are not forgotten



# TEARING DOWN THE WALLS



Original artwork by Tony Mack 2022

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## CHIP PO BOX

Want to write to us directly?

Contact us at the address below.

We try to ensure that everyone is responded to within a month.

PO Box 851

Lake Worth, FL 33460

## BENDING THE BARS - PROJECT UPDATE

The Community Hotline for Incarcerated People (CHIP) is working on collecting art, stories, poems, lyrics, songs, and more from Broward County jails to document the experiences of people incarcerated in the jails and amplify your voices. There has been an amazing response to our call, and this issue includes updates!

**Podcast:** edited by Ruddy, 8 episodes of the podcast have been released with a 9th in production for December 2022. The podcast is called "Tearing Down the Walls" and is available on Spotify and Soundcloud. It features news, updates, and interviews with folks inside BSO jails. Several recent stories are in this newsletter.

**Postcard Exhibit:** we've received at least 50 postcards with stories, art, poetry, and other information about the postcard-only policy and we're working on a digital exhibit to document how harmful this policy is. We need more postcards that include *visible and large numbers* illustrating the COSTS that the policy imposes on incarcerated folks and their families, as well as any other information about the COSTS of commissary, phone calls, etc. We want people to really see how financial profit drives jail policy. We have been sending carepacks to folks who participate in the postcard project, and can send about 20 more.

**Interactive Storytelling:** researcher Amelia has collected stories and oral histories from a half dozen folks inside and outside about the grievance process and is designing an interactive video game to demonstrate how broken it is. But we also want to work with you to imagine *how the system could be different*. If you have ideas for a better, effective, and actually just grievance process, please contact us!

**Album:** over a dozen people have recorded demo tracks for the album, tentatively titled "Bending the Bars." Right now, we're working on getting contracts and other legal paperwork to everyone who will be on the album. We are committed to protecting the copyright of all artists and are working with an agent in LA to ensure that everyone owns their songs and the masters. About 8 producers and musicians got together with Executive Producer Gary Field and CHIP Steering Committee Members Noam and Nikki on Nov 30th to review the submissions. The talent is incredible and we're excited to start matching inside and outside collaborators to bring these tracks to life!

YOUR LOVED ONES CAN FIND US ONLINE:

CHIPSOUTHFL.ORG

FB: CHIPSOUTHFLORIDA

IG: CHIP\_SOUTHFLORIDA

## SEEKING \$\$ INFO

We need postcards that feature drawings, sketches, and other design elements to really visually highlight the issues faced by folks in BSO custody, especially the price gouging. Please send us your thoughts, artwork, ideas, and commentary!



selections from original art by Tony Mack 2022

## LGBTQ+ MOVEMENTS FOR PRISONERS

In each newsletter, we will address a different issue relevant to incarceration. Since CHIP is an anti-racist organization committed to queer and trans liberation, in this issue, we will briefly cover the LGBTQ+ history with incarceration and abolition. **Next time: mental health in BSO.**

LGBTQ+ includes lesbians, gay people, bisexuals, trans people, queer people, and many more. The first law to criminalize sexual behavior in the western world was in 1290 in England. It wasn't until 1924 that acts decriminalizing queerness were passed, the first being in Peru. In the US, queerness wasn't decriminalized until 2003. But regardless of what reforms were made, oppression, repression, over-policing and state surveillance continue to impact LGBTQ+ folks globally. According to lawyer Dean Spade, drawing on stats from the National Center for Transgender Equality: "38% of Black trans people report having been harassed by police, and 15% report having been assaulted by police....Police profiling and targeting, as well as reduced pathways to citizenship through family due to widespread family rejection, means that queer and trans migrants are more likely to be undocumented and get swept up in detention and deportation proceedings. In juvenile jails, adult jails and prisons, and immigration prisons, queer and trans prisoners are targeted for violence and have an increased likelihood of solitary confinement." **Queer and especially trans communities have been at the forefront of abolition work since the beginning.** In 2020, the Muslim Alliance for Sexual and Gender Diversity raised funds for the 'Believers Bailout' which bonds out incarcerated Muslims, and promoted campaigns to free black trans and black Muslim prisoners. Other abolition projects include Black and Pink, connecting incarcerated LGBTQ+ folks with penpals across the US and more recently other support services. **Black and Pink:** 2406 Fowler Ave Suite 316, Omaha, NE 68111.

## Hotline Hours: Sun 12-6, Tues 9-3

In October, we held a volunteer training and volunteers Sarah, Zack, and Margie joined our team. Ruddy, Noam, Alexis, & Nikki keep taking calls. We continue to recruit volunteers and if you can't get through, please keep trying. Thanks for your patience and understanding.

CALL 954-866-0555 TEXT 561-486-9099 CHIP\_HOTLINE@RISEUP.NET  
OUR PODCAST ON SPOTIFY: "TEARING DOWN THE WALLS"

## GAINSVILLE NEWS

Florida Prisoner Solidarity has 2 main campaigns kicking off: 1 is to get all phone calls free in all of their jails, and 2 is removing the K-9 unit completely, stopping dogs from being cops. We're hoping to learn from them as we work here in South Florida. Their Instagram page is @fl\_abolition.

## IMMIGRANT DETENTION NEWS

On November 21st 2022, 114 immigrant and human rights groups signed and delivered a letter demanding that president Biden close all detention centers, stop their expansion and cut funding for immigrant detention. Organizations such as the Black Alliance for Just Immigration, Detention Watch Network, the ACLU, Immigrant Action Alliance, and the American Immigrant Lawyers Association were just some of the many organizations to carry this demand forward. There has been no formal response from the Biden Administration as of yet. CHIP is in solidarity with this call for justice.

## ABOUT CHIP

The Community Hotline for Incarcerated People (CHIP) is an all-volunteer prison abolition group which runs a hotline for incarcerated people in South Florida. We offer information, resources, & referrals to incarcerated people. We document the conditions in the jails, connect incarcerated people with family members and other resources, do direct advocacy and agitate for systemic change.