

UNCHAINED MELODIES



CHIP: THE COMMUNITY HOTLINE FOR INCARCERATED PEOPLE

This guide reviews the history of the South Florida-based Community Hotline for Incarcerated People (CHIP) and how activism against medical neglect lead to the *Bending the Bars* album.

TIMELINE (2020-2026)

April 5, 2020

CHIP is formed as the COVID-19 Hotline for Incarcerated People as part of the Incarcerated Workers Organizing Committee's efforts to de-carcerate during the early days of the pandemic



June 2020- June 2021

The American Civil Liberties Union sues Broward County jails for violating the rights of incarcerated people during the COVID-19 pandemic. Letters and calls to CHIP play a significant role in this process.

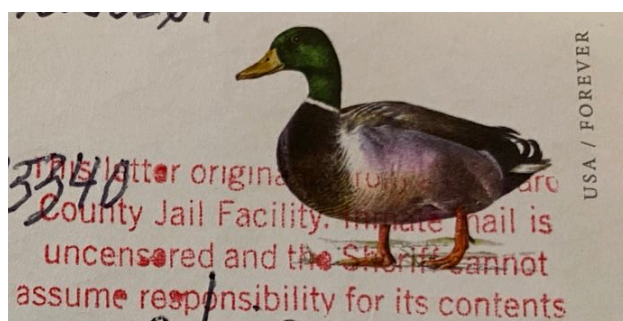
March 2021

CHIP (now the Community Hotline for Incarcerated People) reports on conditions inside in a newsletter that reaches hundreds of incarcerated people.



April 2021

CHIP sends information about the economic stimulus program to over 1000 incarcerated people.



June 21, 2021

Broward Sheriff's Office imposes a "postcard-only policy" limiting all incoming and outgoing mail to pre-stamped postcards



June 21, 2022

Gary Field contacts CHIP seeking outside support organizing against the postcard-only policy, and soon becomes the third executive producer of *Bending the Bars*