

The ChIPs (Children of Incarcerated Persons) Program

Christmas comes to the children of incarcerated persons every year. You and sponsors like you who donate gifts and funds help make it happen!

Both the families of and the parents who are incarcerated are deeply grateful for the opportunity that ChIPs affords them. Children of prison inmates can live lonely lives. It's easy to believe that a parent you never see just doesn't care. Persons who are incarcerated also find themselves feeling isolated and abandoned, unable to provide for or to be a part of their families. Being able to offer their children a gift during the Christmas visit gives the inmates an opportunity for connection, for a sliver of normalcy in their family relations. Studies have shown that parolees are significantly more likely to integrate back into society if they are able to maintain relationships with their families. The ChIPs program creates positive experiences on which to build a foundation for those relationships.

Usually, the inmate is a parent. Sometimes a grandparent. Sometimes even a big brother or sister. Covid isolation has hit this population especially hard, but now the ChIPs program has been given the green light to come back. Your help is urgently needed to brighten the lives of all these people!

Gifts will be collected on Saturday, November 5, between 8 am and 10 am at a truck parked across the street from the Capitol Center for the Arts in Concord.

If you need to refresh your memory about the guidelines for gifts, if you wish to volunteer, or if you need any other information, please contact [Margaret Mackie-Ciancio](#) at 603 867 4590.

If you would like to make a monetary donation to ChIPS, please mail a check made out to the Episcopal Diocese of New Hampshire and mail it to the Episcopal Church of New Hampshire, 63 Green Street, Concord, NH 03301.

More information will be posted here about the collection of checks for ChIPs and UTO on November 5.