CONNECTICUT FAMILIES ON THE COST OF PRISON CALLS

"I'd put twenty dollars on it at a time, which would last about a week, or a week and a day or two. I felt like I didn't want to help him anymore, because I was struggling out here to maintain that phone bill and had to keep paying for my household. It's hard enough when your partner is incarcerated – it is even harder on the relationship when you can't communicate regularly." - **Shaniqua Taylor**

"Thousands of Connecticut families like mine are 'figuring it out' every day. We are figuring out which bills to pay, which nights we skip dinner, and which doctors' visits to cancel so that we can afford to speak to our children, our siblings, our parents." - **Diane Lewis**

"There were so many times I wanted to call but couldn't because I realized that there was no money on the account. They're out there trying to take care of their bills, and you become another bill, by trying to keep in contact with them." - **Chris Barrett**

"Being able to hear my son's voice and let him have some contact with his family on the outside is so important because we can't always visit in person. We only get to talk a couple times a week because of money but I know he wants to call and talk a lot more than I can afford. That hurts as his mother." - **Diane Farino***

"Unfortunately, in prison, I knew many men who didn't have the financial support to pay for calls. The isolation was frustrating, and could move even men convicted of non-violent crimes like me to aggression. There's nothing that can break the toxicity of the prison environment like hearing a child's voice." - **Tranell McCoy**

"My foster child and my ex-boyfriend talk about 7 days a week and sometimes twice a day or more. You don't realize how quickly the minutes pass and just how much it adds up. Sometimes I spend more than $40.00 a week when I can spend that on gas or food instead of the calls. The cost of calls only hurts the family and child." - **Veronica Ortiz***

*Name changed for anonymity

HELP CONNECT FAMILIES