



OneSpirit
in Action

Interfaith Prison Partnership and Release Bags

Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.

- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Interfaith Prison Partnership (IPP) works to improve the lives of incarcerated people, with our current focus on the women in New York State's Bedford Hills and Taconic facilities. Individuals being released from prison leave with little to no essential items, not even so much as a toothbrush or comb. Oftentimes they are released to homeless shelters rather than to loving and supportive family environments. In order to carry what few items they may have – some medication or an ID – they are only provided with a trash bag. IPP seeks to do more to affirm the human dignity of incarcerated people and support their re-entry. Thus, we've developed a program to provide **Release Bags to women upon their exit from Bedford Hills and Taconic facilities.**

ONE SPIRIT IN ACTION (OSIA) is supporting a drive, together with IPP, to collect enough items for 30 Release Bags.

We are seeking donations of some basic personal care items, including the following:

- full-sized shampoo & conditioner
- deodorant & soap
- feminine hygiene items
- lip balm & hand lotion
- sanitizer & Kleenex
- hair ties & comb/brush
- wash cloth & towel
- fleece blanket
- pens & notebook
- hard candy or gummies

To make it easier, if you so desire, these items can be easily purchased and shipped directly from Amazon.com using the following “IPP Release Bag” link:

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/24ZLGXGKRN4DT?ref=wl_share

Items can be shipped to:

IPP, c/o Elizabeth Friend-Ennis
60 Cedar Lane,
Bronxville, NY 10708.

Obviously you are welcome to donate any equivalent items; these are suggestions. If you are in northern Manhattan or Westchester County, any items you wish to donate can be picked up by arrangement with Rev. Elizabeth Friend-Ennis at 540-336-2477.

Cash donations can be mailed to the address above.

For more information, contact Rev. Elizabeth at efriendennis@interfaithprisonpartnership.org.