FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

On April 18, 2019, the Criminal Court Judges of Davidson County held an *en banc* hearing relating to the Nashville Community Bail Fund (NCBF). The NCBF wants to publicly thank those community members that were in attendance. With their presence, they represented so many in this community who support ending the harmful and unfair practice of poverty-based pretrial jailing in Nashville. The NCBF wants our supporters and the broader community to know about the Bail Fund's critical work and our success so far.

The mission of the NCBF is to free people from jail who are presumed innocent and can't afford to pay their bail. In Davidson County alone, more than 800 individuals are jailed every night pretrial, most because they do not have the money to pay bail. These people are presumed innocent and are at risk of losing their jobs, houses, or children. These are also individuals that the commercial bail industry will not help – they either have no money to pay the bonding company or the bail is set so low that the bonding companies will not bother. Some of our participants have had bail set as low as $50.

Since June 2016, the Bail Fund has gotten 675 individuals out of jail—all with bonds of less than $5,000. The NCBF then assists these individuals in returning to court to resolve the charges brought against them. When they do, the NCBF receives the bail money back and uses it to free the next person. Nearly 500 of these cases have now completed, and half of our participants resolved their cases with no conviction at all. We know that without the Bail Fund, many would have pled guilty simply to get out of jail faster.

We will continue to do the vital work of assisting this very vulnerable population and need your continued support. Please spread the word that jailing someone simply because they cannot afford bail is unjust and that the Bail Fund needs your help. To stay up to date with our work, please follow us on Twitter or Facebook. Donate Here to support our work.