

HFP

Humanity
for Prisoners
Action with Compassion

Unball

Unwelcome!

The absence of your presence requested at 6th annual Unball!

This popular un-event was created six years ago with our busy friends and supporters in mind. These active people longed for the opportunity to stay home with family for an evening, and they thanked us for the idea. Now they could support HFP without having to attend another fund-raising dinner, eat rubbery chicken, and listen to pitches for more money. As in past years, you don't have to buy new clothes for the event, don't have to hire a sitter, and you don't have to spend money on gas to drive to our non-event.

Your donation will NOT be used to rent a hall, hire a caterer, or pay speakers and musicians.

It WILL be used to help the team in its response to hundreds of pleas for assistance from Michigan prisoners who don't know where to turn.

Tickets \$75 each
Sponsor a table, \$500
Tips are welcome!
No donation is too large!

Watch for your invitation in the mail. This year, we have 2 requests: 1), please donate, of course; and 2), ask a friend to participate. Staying home is contagious!

In Memoriam

We say goodbye to friend and supporter Lowell VanDeRiet



Lowell VanDeRiet, M.D., loving husband, father, and grandfather, of Holland, MI, passed away on March 2, at the age of 91. Lowell and his wife Mary have been strong supporters of the work and mission of HFP for many years. We send our love and warmest condolences to Mary and the extended Van De Riet family.

Prison is a process, a succession of imprisonments. At first it operates only on a physical level, restricting your movement. Later, it extends to the psychological plane, encompassing your very perception. You come to exclude all thoughts, all visions of the free world.

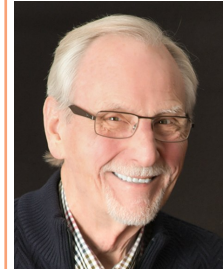
Norman Parker

From the Desk of Doug:

Marcia: Caring = Ministry!

I'm thinking a lot about Marcia these days. It was exactly one year ago that I lost my wife.

Several months after that we would have celebrated our 65th wedding anniversary!



Besides missing her presence in our home and in my life, I find myself missing her common sense, especially when it comes to the Christian walk.

Marsh didn't believe that you had to be a preacher or a missionary to demonstrate your faith. Neither did she believe that ministry consisted only of teaching the Bible and encouraging people to make decisions.

She served for many years as a nurse for our local hospice program. Granted, she was not the hospice chaplain. But, she clearly viewed her role as a ministry. A quick check of those often-quoted verses in Matthew 26 will show that Jesus didn't say he was hungry and somebody came and prayed with him for food. Jesus didn't say he was in prison and someone came to teach Bible lessons. The ministry was in the doing...somebody gave him something to eat. Somebody was kind enough to pay him a visit. That was Marcia.

A good lesson for all of us, whatever our calling. A great description of HFP's work.

I can hear her soprano voice:

If I can help somebody, as I
travel along
If I can help somebody, with a
word or song
If I can help somebody, from
doing wrong
My living shall not be in vain.

It wasn't.

What do they appreciate?

Sharon appreciated our help in getting her heart meds reinstated: "Thank you so, so much! This morning I picked up my medicine. I am already starting to feel more like myself again."

George was grateful for our assistance in getting a parole: "Because of the help you gave me I'm being paroled on a D-47 which is giving me the help I need to have a successful reentry into society."

Chris liked our new reentry packet: "It was very helpful, insightful, and timely. So, I just wanted to take the time to say thank you for your consideration and help."

Richard is just pleased that we're around: "I don't need anything, but I just wanted to say THANK YOU for all you do to help others!!! I hope the Good Lord blesses you guys!"

Holy Week behind bars

Every year we hear grumbling from prisoners at Easter time. Incarcerated men and women are quick to point out that, even though a particular holiday may be the most meaningful of all to the Christian population, it is just another day in prison. The only difference, in some facilities, is that the meal might be slightly improved. Our courses say it is still slop.

We like to remember Holy Week of 2022, when Pope Francis washed the feet of a dozen inmates at a prison near Rome. The Vatican called it a ritual that symbolizes humility and service. We were told that His Highness wanted to focus attention to those on society's margins.

The pope performed the foot-washing, following Jesus' example, in what the Vatican called, "a sign of love inspired by love" aimed at service and humility. The 12 inmates included men and women of various ages and of different nationalities.

Symbolizing the number of Jesus' apostles, the twelve sat on chairs on a raised platform. The pontiff washed, dried, then kissed the feet of each of the inmates, all who were wearing masks against the spread of COVID-19.

We remember that touching ceremony, as we remember all incarcerated persons during this significant month.

"Until" by Krystal Clark #435064

Until you been arrested
And spent endless nights in jail
And walked a hundred miles
Without ever leaving your cell
Until you lost your family
And you're utterly alone
You try to seek comfort
Realizing it was left at home
Until you faced a judge
And entered your guilty plea
And you heard the words of judgment
That you won't be going free
Until your days turn into months
And months turn into years
You lie awake at night
Shedding endless tears
Until you've lost hope
And every dream you've ever had
You fight to keep your sanity
And fear that you'll go mad
Until you've gone through all these things
And lost all human will
How can you look at me and say
You know just how I feel

COVID survivor gets hero's welcome!

I'm pleased to report that Greg has returned from the dead. You're, like, what? Neither zombie nor Lazarus, but not far from either, too. He caught COVID-19 when it first hammered this place (Saginaw CF) in '20, ended up on tubes three times, webbed into the bed so he wouldn't thrash and dislodge all the other tubes, and had his heart stop at least once. He spent 25 long months hospitalized and in recovery. He looks as rough as you might expect for someone whom even the doctors said was a walking miracle to have survived such an ordeal when so many people don't pull through a single tube insert. He got a standing ovation and cheers by over a hundred people!

Easter Blessings from the HFP Team!



Donate today at HumanityForPrisoners.org