

## Double!

All year-end donations to HFP matched!

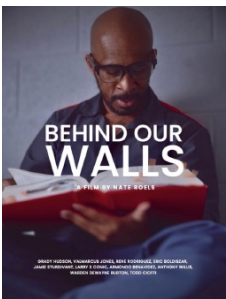


As we conclude the year 2023, we're excited to report that all year-end gifts to HUMANITY FOR PRISONERS will be matched,

dollar for dollar! The announcement comes from Board Chair Russ Bloem and President/CEO Mark Hartman. Because of a post-Covid slump, the year-end goal has been optimistically set at \$70,000.00. With the addition of a QR code this year, giving is simpler than ever. Scan the code here, or visit our website at [www.humanityforprisoners.com](http://www.humanityforprisoners.com). We need your partnership as we work toward a strong launch for the year 2024!



## Behind Our Walls



Nate Roels' powerful documentary was viewed for the first time in Ottawa County at HFP's Voices of Humanity film fest on October 27. Behind Our Walls shows that all people are deserving of a second chance, no matter what they've done, claims the producer.

Response from our friend Jan Hasselbring was typical:

*"Friday evening was simply wonderful! The dinner was delicious, the program/films were amazing. Thank you again for the work you do for those behind the walls and often forgotten. Mark, your story is amazing. And, Doug is one of my favorite people. It's a privilege to be involved, even in a small way, with the work you are doing. God bless you all!"*

### A program for your church or civic group?

HFP has obtained permission for additional showings of this heart-warming documentary. To schedule a program for your organization, contact Mark Hartman at the HFP office, 616-935-0075. Or, you may email him at [executivedirector@humanityforprisoners.org](mailto:executivedirector@humanityforprisoners.org).

## From the Desk of Doug On Christmas Presents

How rearranging could make an impact!



Our church did something really neat.

Thanks to generous members of our congregation, the building mortgage was paid off ahead of schedule. Instead of reducing the annual church

budget by that amount, however, the council chose to hang onto that dollar figure, but to spend it each year on special outreach projects.

As we enter the season of giving, I think it's worth reassessing how many of the people on our gift lists are really needy. My idea is not that you or I reduce our giving budgets for 2023, but that we reframe it, like our church did.

With unusual post-Covid economic conditions, the HFP budget took a hit this year, and we're working hard to recover that \$40,000 shortfall. I know of no agency where your dollar touches so many lives! I know of no agency that is in personal contact with so many men and women behind bars! I know of no agency that receives the support and thanks of so many incarcerated individuals!

An expanded year-end gift to HFP for 2023 will not only be appreciated... it will be doubled!

Thanks, again, for being there for us, but especially for being there for "the least of these."

May your holiday season be blessed!

"For it is in giving that we receive."

— St. Francis of Assisi

— Doug Tjapkes, Founder



HFP CEO Mark Hartman (center) poses with Pastor Nate Visser of Ferrysburg Community Church (left) along with FCC organist and HFP founder Doug

Tjapkes. Deacons at FCC scheduled four special offerings for Humanity for Prisoners in November. To hear Mark Hartman's five-minute presentation to the congregation, go to Ferrysburg Community Church's website, click on "watch," and then go to the November 19 service. Skip the opening music if you wish, and go to 28:00 minutes.



### Sign the Petition!

HFP is partnering with The Liberty and Justice for All Coalition as we attempt to improve Michigan's criminal justice system. Our office at 14998 Cleveland Street, Spring Lake, MI, has been approved as a center for signing Michigan Good Time petitions. MDOC residents have endured one of the harshest sentencing guidelines in the United States because of its archaic truth-in-sentencing laws. Good Time legislation would give incarcerated persons credits for measurable good behavior toward an earlier release. Such a program is known to encourage and stimulate rehabilitation. Michigan is one of only six states in the country without a good-time policy, and is number one in the country for length of time served. We encourage you to support this effort to get Good Time credit on the 2024 ballot by signing a legal petition. You may call the office at 616-935-0075 for more information.

### Doug & Mark to Address Lawyers

Doug Tjapkes will be next year's featured speaker at the annual Law Day Luncheon of the Kalamazoo County Bar Association and the Kalamazoo Trial Lawyers Association on May 3. When event planners learned that our CEO was a former HFP client who spent 12 years behind bars, Mark Hartman was encouraged to be a participant as well. Doug and Mark hope to participate in a Q&A session with attorneys in the audience.

### HFP Support Helps a Couple Guys!

#### Note to Doug & team:

Yesterday morning, I found out they granted me, according to a parole agent at the Saginaw facility, a COMMUTED PAROLE (P70). Again, thanks for all you and the HFP team have done to help me. I am enthusiastically looking forward to working with HFP to help others inside. Ricardo

#### Note to Doug

Well, my old friend, I've been granted a parole after serving 25 years of a Life sentence for an arson that I did not commit. I will be going to a placement in Adrian in December. Thank your staff for their assistance and I wish you all the best. Your friend, Bill

### From Behind Bars

#### Fall cleaning day at Macomb CF

Interesting is this administration's decision to once again conduct the cleanest unit competition. Surprisingly, we had enough porters, painters, and volunteers to actually win. Had you seen how dirty this unit was, you'd have been surprised at the turnaround. As a prize, our Prisoner Benefit Fund bought all 240 of us Hershey's cookies 'n cream candy bars! Very patriotic with red and blue cookie chips mixed in with the white chocolate, and also very delicious. Now it remains to be seen whether the place will stay this pristine.