

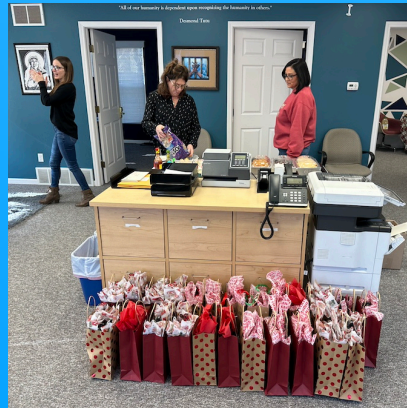


Mark Hartman's fiancée Michelle Emmons made a surprise presentation at the HFP team's annual Christmas party. She presented Mark, HFP executive director and president, with an early Christmas gift for prominent display in his office. Assembled in the giant shadow box are: prison blues with Mark's MDOC number stenciled on the back; Calvin Prison Initiative diploma holder; maroon and gold honor cords, which Mark wore at his CPI

graduation; graduation cap and tassel; and glass cover with gold vinyl lettering proclaiming term of years in MDOC custody (includes 12 years' incarceration and 1 year on parole supervision). The display is a poignant reminder of Mark's remarkable journey from incarceration to administration. It was a Christmas party celebration like no other!



Julia and Susie in the kitchen

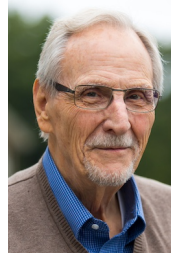


Sarah, Susie and Carmen prepare our office

From the Desk of Doug

Jim Takes Over

Fine leadership continues!



I do not believe in coincidence. This is especially true when I consider the strong leadership our Board of Directors has had over the years.

Let me explain.

Our original organization, INNOCENT, chugged along as a one-man show for nearly a decade, with a tiny group of directors meeting quarterly to vote yea or nay. Then, a parade of dynamic leaders came aboard to successfully lead the newly-branded HUMANITY FOR PRISONERS to unheard of levels! Here's how they found us.

- Dr. Dan Rooks, Ph.D., read newspaper accounts of my fight for Maurice Carter.
- Cindy Anderson and I met while attending a Shakespeare Behind Bars production of the play JUSTICE FOR MAURICE HENRY CARTER.
- Russ Bloem met my son Greg at a conference in Hawaii, and later learned from his mother that she was my first cousin.

The leadership of these three superstars, and the incredible progress made by HFP during their tenures, cannot be measured! HFP would not have the status, nor the reputation of today, without their dedication.

Next in line: Jim Niewenhuis, MD, who capably assumed the reins on January 1, 2024. Jim didn't know Doug Tjapkes, nor had he heard of HUMANITY FOR PRISONERS, until he began attending Ferrysburg Community Church. But, he knew about prisons. As a member of the male chorus HIS MEN, he enjoyed four years of their prison ministry.

Having these visionaries arrive at HFP was no coincidence.

— Doug Tjapkes, Founder

Holiday Gifts for HFP

Financial

Year-end matching contribution campaign: \$50,000+ (total not complete)

Muskegon Correctional Facility Prisoner Benefit Fund: \$500.00*

Saginaw Correctional Facility Prisoner Benefit Fund: \$500.00*

*Every Michigan prison has a PBF, supported mainly by the dollars in prison vending machines. A PBF committee, made up of staff and elected inmates, makes the



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spending decisions, often for items like exercise equipment or microwave ovens. HFP considers it the ultimate compliment when people behind bars support our work in all MDOC facilities!

Verbal

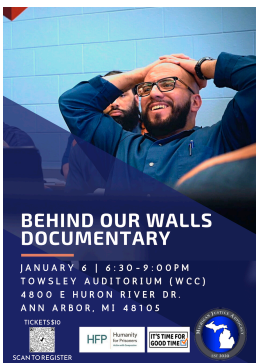
HFP Client Mr. J: "I would like to take this time to thank you beautiful beautiful people for all the wonderful work that you do on behalf of all of us prisoners. I want you to know that you are greatly appreciated and loved. When the world has turned their back on some of us, you were the only ones there with love, kindness and respect. You treat us like we are human beings. Your actions demonstrate God's love in practice. Thank you."

HFP Client Mr. R: "I wanted to thank you guys for all you've done. I had already decided that I was going to need to find someone to drive me around when I get out. Well that's changed! Saw the optometrist today and got good news. I get my eye surgery on both eyes. I almost started crying there in his office. I thought I was getting out only to be blind. I just wanted to thank you for your help. You have literally given me back my life. We matter!"

HFP Donor, on a greeting card filled with only one word: Thanks! "A million thanks for the work you do!"

Behind Our Walls

Upcoming public showings of award-winning video:



- Washtenaw Community College (in partnership with Michigan Justice Advocacy), Ann Arbor, MI. Date: Saturday, January 6, 2024, 6:30 PM

- Ferrysburg Community Church (CRC) Adult Education Class, Ferrysburg,

MI. Date: Sunday, February 18, 2024, 9:15 AM

- Celebration Fellowship Church (CRC), (meeting at LaGrave CRC) Grand Rapids, MI. Date: Sunday, March 17, 2024

New board leadership for 2024



Jim Niewenhuis, MD, is our new board chair, succeeding Russ Bloem. Jim is a Grand Rapids pathologist, lives in Coopersville, and prior to serving on our board was involved in the prison ministry of HIS MEN for four years.



Bill Zeilstra, of Grand Rapids, is our new treasurer, succeeding Dave Bardolph. Now semi-retired, Bill served as corporate controller for Kamps Pallets for 35 years.

Our sincere thanks to Russ and Dave for their multiple contributions to the successful work of HFP!

Mark goes back to school



HFP Executive Director Mark Hartman, a graduate of Calvin Prison

Initiative, returned to Calvin University in Grand Rapids on November 28 as a guest lecturer. Mark spoke with university students at Instructor Kyle Heys' Core 100 course. He was able to present his personal account of being incarcerated, and how that led to a career of helping persons behind bars. In addition, he was able to share details of the amazing work being done on a daily basis among Michigan's 42,000 incarcerated persons.

The Work of Christmas

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among others,
To make music in the heart.

— Howard Thurman