

Double!

Year-end gifts matched toward \$50k goal!

HFP is proud to announce that, thanks to pledges from an amazing group of supporters, all year-end donations will be matched, dollar for dollar! The arrangements were made just in time for the annual Thanksgiving Letter sent out by HFP Founder Doug Tjapkes. Doug reports that COVID made a negative impact on financial contributions in the past two years. Major donors have agreed to match all year-end gifts totaling up to \$50,000.00. The HFP mailing address is PO Box 687, Grand Haven, MI 49417. To help us reach that goal, you may also go to our website and donate online: www.humanityforprisoners.org.



Meet John!

Dr. John Rottman named as Interim HFP CEO!

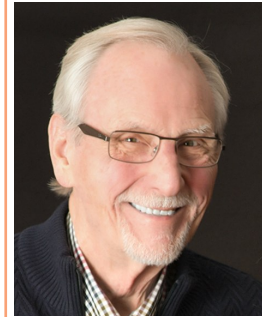


One might legitimately ask how a seminary professor developed an interest in the plight of prisoners. Well, for years, Dr. Rottman took some of his students to the Louisiana State Penitentiary, commonly known as "Angola." Over the years he developed relationships with prisoners and staff at Angola and has made numerous visits. That interest led John into helping to establish a college degree program for Michigan prisoners. In 2011 he helped launch the Calvin Prison Initiative and taught the very first class at the Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility in Ionia for the seminary. Now retired, he still serves on the CPI Steering Committee and continues to teach in the prison. Dr. Rottman also serves on the HFP Board of Directors and was a natural pick to serve as interim CEO until a permanent replacement for Matt Tjapkes can be named, said board chair Russ Bloem.

From the Desk of Doug:

A time to weep, And a time to laugh

My kids say they can't wait for 2022 to come to an end. There were many things they didn't like this year, especially the death of their mom. That was a loss that hit all of us. The



unexpected, unplanned and sometimes unpleasant experiences not only touched the members of our extended family...they touched an organization very close to us: HFP! Through it all, we lost our CEO, who also happens to be a member of our family.

One of my favorite preachers, theologian Richard Mouw, was speaking in the Crystal Cathedral one Sunday. He confessed that, when reading cheap who-dun-it novels, he often sneaks a peek at the last chapter, just to reassure himself that everything is going to turn out OK. He then told members of the audience who might have been struggling with unpleasant issues not to worry, because, in reading his Bible, and he had checked on the last chapter!

The "preacher" said in Ecclesiastes, there's "a time to weep, and a time to laugh."

In our family as well as in our office, we've been able to do both. That's because we are assured of a fine ending.

Yes, during this holiday season, and in the year to come, there's likely to be some tears. But here's my wish for you: May you also find laughter and happiness since we know all about the last chapter.



Photo Courtesy of MDOC

HFP Goes to Prison! Father and Son Team meets with Lifers

Former HFP President Matt Tjapkes and his father Doug, who founded the organization, chat with some 50 members of the National Lifers Association at the Chippewa Correctional Facility in Upper Michigan. The inmates had high praise for the services offered the incarcerated by HUMANITY FOR PRISONERS. From a prisoner who was unable to attend, due to COVID quarantine: "What you do (advocacy for prisoners) is felt! It means more than you know! I was particularly impressed by my friend's account of your recent visit to our facility. He seemed genuinely overwhelmed with gratitude!"

Holiday Blessings from the HFP Team!



When the prison gates slam behind an inmate, he does not lose his human quality; his mind does not become closed to ideas; his intellect does not cease to feed on a free and open interchange of opinion; his yearning for self-respect does not end; nor is his quest for self-realization concluded.

Thurgood Marshall

You Matter!

Michigan Prisoners respond to HFP kindness

Mr. P, who had an assistance request—

"In prison, we often feel forgotten and banished. I appreciate the fact that some people, specifically you and your coworkers, do still see us as human beings worthy of help. It appears that your mantra is that we matter. We may matter, to some, but you and your organization make it real, perceptible, and uplifting. We are grateful for what you do!"

Mr. R, who was trying to find siblings—

"I was able to get in touch with both sisters because of you all, and thank you very much for finding Angela and Anette for me. We talk almost every day now, thanks to your help, and we are still best friends today!"

Mr. D wanted to find his son—

"I had y'all look up my son and now he contacted me, which opened up many doors for me. I never met him but because of you guys I'm able to be in his life! Thank you so much! I prayed for this for a very long time!"

We're not always successful, but we always try!

"Though my prior friend and family requests haven't worked out, the simple fact that such services are available (when they previously weren't) demonstrates a degree of fairness/humanity, in a world and environment not known or accustomed to either! Your intent makes a significant difference! Thus, THANK YOU!"

St. Nicholas in Prison



HFP commissioned artist D.J. Montney, a resident of Handlon CF, to paint this depiction of St. Nicholas behind bars, as a gift to the founder of the St. Nicholas Center in Holland, Michigan. Carol Myers, and her husband Dave, have been major supporters of HFP for years.

Donate today at [HumanityForPrisoners.org](https://www.HumanityForPrisoners.org)