

Success!

**HFP friends, university students, church members join hands!
Year-end fund drive sets new record!**

Major donors

A group of generous supporters of the HFP mission agreed to pledge up to \$50,000 so that all year-end contributions could be matched, dollar for dollar! As we neared that goal, another \$10,000 pledge was received. The new goal: \$60,000!

Friends of HFP

Interim CEO John Rottman reports that, while final numbers are not available, HFP's broad spectrum of friends responded to Founder Doug Tjapkes' annual Thanksgiving letter with record totals! By the end of the year, we had exceeded the \$50,000 figure, and were heading toward our new goal!

U of M students

During this important campaign, this message arrived from a group of university students who volunteer their services. "We are so excited to share that the Parole Preparation Project of the University of Michigan was able to raise \$482.00 for your organization! Thank you for allowing us to work with you, and for all the work you do. We hope that this can be useful for you and your organization." Student Gabriella Ahearn said her group decided to do its own fundraiser for HFP.

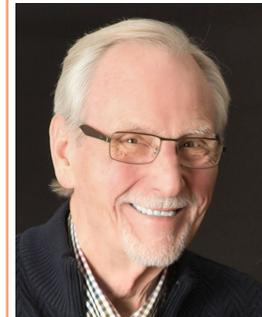
FCC Church members

Doug Tjapkes, shown here wearing his official HFP "You Matter" t-shirt, making a presentation to the congregation of Ferrysburg Community Church. It worked! The church held four special offerings in November, and the collections totaled more than \$1,000 per week!



From the Desk of Doug: Family Business? Yes!

You hear the same story over and over again. Someone starts a business. Sons and daughters inherit the business and keep it



going. And then, decades later, the business fades into oblivion when the last family

member retires or dies.

Some observers felt that HUMANITY FOR PRISONERS had evolved into a "family business" when my son Matt replaced me as CEO. While Matt was the perfect person for the moment, it was never his intention to "Inherit" the business, or to remain in the business of helping prisoners.

Matt has gone now, and the founder of this organization is 86 years of age. But, I can proudly inform you that the business is alive and well. It is, indeed, a family business...but not involving a biological link. The HFP team is a family! Make no mistake about it.

Our board members who occasionally stop in to assist marvel at the teamwork that goes on in this office. Our numerous volunteers whose valuable assistance contributes to our success, love to come in and work with the gang! They are family.

The need for our services is more critical than ever. Be assured that this "family business" will thrive in 2023!

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Jeremiah 29:11

Celebrating the Holidays Behind Bars!

On Thanksgiving dinner at Saginaw CF

The less said about Thanksgiving dinner the better. Seriously. I haven't had such a bad meal since the Reformatory in 1986. I didn't think flavorless turkey paste semi-cooked into a circle existed, and who thought swapping out our cranberries for sweet potato chunks soaked in white sugar and watered down faux maple syrup was a good idea? At least I got a scoop from a decently cooked pan of stuffing as well as a good pumpkin pie square. The guys who sat down after me had stuffing so desiccated it crumbled, and pie more akin to a rubber ball than dessert. Oh well, it is what it is.

'Twas the season at Carson City CF

The continued shortage of prison employees has nearly eliminated our big yard and recreational activities such as softball, weight pit, weight room, gym, music room, chapel, soccer horseshoes, frisbee, volleyball and basketball. The prison maintenance department is in shambles as well. In fact, as I write this letter, my housing unit's prisoner elevator for the handicapped has been out of order for weeks. And, I just returned from dinner where the entire inside of the chow hall smells of rancid sewage from a blocked drain---for the umpteenth time. It's disgusting, and a major food service state code violation.



In Memoriam

Honoring the Lives of two warriors

The prison reform community recently lost two irreplaceable leaders in the advocacy space, Earl Burton (MI Liberation) and Danny Jones (American Friends Service Committee). Earl and Danny were formerly incarcerated, and since their release, they focused the genuine care they had for all by working to heal harm in their communities by building hope and creating change. Humanity for Prisoners grieves the loss of Earl and Danny along with our partner organizations, the entire advocacy community, and especially with Danny and Earl's family and many, many friends.

Gratitude

I just wanted to write you and thank Matt and all of you at Humanity For Prisoners for all you do. You give us hope where there was none and remind us that we're human and are important. For that, please accept my most humble thanks and appreciation.

The Macomb NLA Chapter wishes everyone a happy and safe holiday season. We thank you for all that you do for us! You are our Santa.

Attitude

"No one truly knows a nation until one has been inside its jails. A nation should not be judged by how it treats its highest citizens but its lowest ones."

NELSON MANDELA

Two New Directors! Meet Eric and Jim

HFP Board Chair Russ Bloem has announced the appointment of two new members of our Board of Directors.



Dr. James Niewenhuis is a graduate of Calvin University and Wayne State University medical school. He has worked as a pathologist in Atlanta, GA; Battle Creek, MI; Grand Haven, MI; and now Grand Rapids, Michigan. He met HFP Founder Doug Tjapkes at Ferrysburg Community Church some 8 years ago

and developed a strong interest in our work. His outside interests include singing, reading and woodworking.

Michigander Eric L. Wilkins, LMSW-Clinical, was released from a California prison in 2010 after completing thirty-two months for drug related charges due to a history of addiction. He returned to Detroit in 2011 to launch his post-grad studies, ending up with a Master's Degree at Wayne State University.

In the summer of 2015, he was ordained at Still Point Zen Buddhist Temple after three years in the seminary program and, in addition to his private practice, continues to teach there. He enjoys playing guitar, time spent in nature, and travel.



Both men will serve 3-year terms on the board.

New Year Blessings from the HFP Team!



Donate today at HumanityForPrisoners.org