

HFP: Endowment Fund Revived!

Several years ago the HFP Board of Directors, looking at long-term financial sustainability, formed an endowment fund in cooperation with the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation. It remained dormant until recently. HFP is excited to announce that one of our generous supporters has also expressed an interest in investing for the future. This kind person has committed \$100,000 to our endowment fund, which will yield a \$4,000 per year gift, in perpetuity. Joe Whalen, HFP Development Committee Chair, reports that this donor is hoping that a commitment to the long-term sustainability of HFP might encourage others to consider the same. If you have questions or would like to learn more about how to support HFP through our endowment, or with other types of legacy gifts or estate planning, please contact HFP CEO Mark Hartman.

HFP: Helping Sexually Abused Prisoners



We are pleased to be collaborating with Just Detention International, which operates an emotional support hotline for people at MDOC prisons who are survivors of sexual abuse and sexual harassment (not just while incarcerated, but at any point in their lives).

"An Inside Line," the sexual abuse and sexual harassment support line, can be reached by dialing 1 for English or 2 for Spanish, then *HELP (*4357) to be connected to a counselor. They are available to all survivors of sexual abuse and sexual harassment, and anyone looking for emotional support and information related to sexual violence. Calls are free, confidential, unmonitored, unrecorded and anonymous. Just Detention International is an independent health and human rights organization, and the counselors who answer this line do not work for the Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC). What is shared with them on the hotline does not get reported back to MDOC and reporting is not required in order to access their services.

From the Desk of Doug Personal Experience Nothing Like It!



I love the sound of a well-tuned piano!

I'm a pianist. I never sought, nor was I given the gifts to become a professional performer. Among the gifts that I have been blessed with (or some would argue, "cursed with!") is a discerning ear. Marcia and I had to make an early exit from a restaurant years ago because the lounge musician was singing off-key!

Over many decades, I have known and used many fine piano tuners and techs. Many were not actually musicians... just technicians. Recently, my grand piano was tuned by a tech who is also a gifted pianist. The sound was exquisite! I think it was better.

That leads me to the operation of HUMANITY FOR PRISONERS. I successfully started this organization 24 years ago knowing very little about prison life. My son Matt followed in my footsteps, highly qualified for the job, but also with little corrections experience.

Now we are blessed to have our third CEO, Mark Hartman, who is not only well-educated and highly qualified... he's a former prisoner! Without question his experiences in the justice system and the Michigan prison system add a new and valuable dimension to our work. Mark leads his team in responding to pleas from prisoners with a compassion and understanding that is immeasurable. He's been there. He's done that!

Some things cannot be taught; they must be experienced. You never learn the most valuable lessons in life until you go through your own journey. – Roy T. Bennett

— Doug Tjapkes, Founder

HFP: Connecting with Incarcerated Women



Our Executive Director, Mark Hartman, recently expressed thanks to many people in the Michigan Department of Corrections

(MDOC), as well as prison staff, and Offender Success Reentry Services for a job well done hosting a reentry conference in late January. The event drew some 100 residents of Michigan's only women's prison, the Women's Huron Valley Facility (WHV) near Ypsilanti. Our organization was honored to participate in that program, supporting women as they prepare to embark upon new, important chapters in their lives. Mark said it was a productive day, and similar events in other Michigan facilities are being planned.

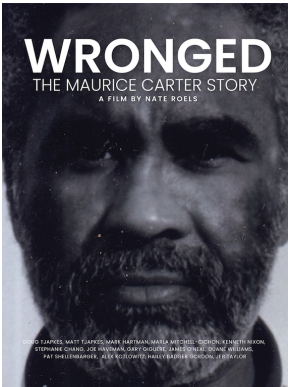
HFP: Thanks and Support from a Prisoner

Chris: "Enclosed find my \$15 donation. I am so grateful for HFP: a genuine lifeline! I don't know how many times I just wanted and asked God to please take my life. 2024 was the absolute worst year of my entire 54 years of life. Thank you for helping me to get through it! Please share this message with others and encourage them to make donations to you as well."

Prison Racism Comment from U of M Study:

Racism in prison is daily in every facility in Michigan. "In the chow hall has a white side where most of all of the whites sit and a Black side with all the Blacks sit. But the whites barely get shake down leaving when the Blacks are targeted daily. Especially on chicken day, stereotyping us with the saying, 'you know, Blacks love two things: watermelon and chicken.'"

Posthumous Parole for Maurice?



As a climax to years of intense work on an application to the Michigan Parole Board, a group of criminal justice students at the University of Michigan filed a petition seeking a posthumous parole for Maurice Carter. For those

not familiar with that name, Maurice was a friend of HFP founder Doug Tjapkes, and it was his persistence that prompted the formation of our agency. Maurice served 29 years for a crime he did not commit. He died three months after receiving a compassionate release in 2004. YOU can help by signing a petition on Maurice's behalf; use the QR code at right.



HFP Board Chair: Helping More than Prisoners

Hurricanes Helene and Milton caused billions of dollars in damage to Florida in 2024. Hurricane Milton caused flooding, power outages, and tornadoes. HFP Board Chair Jim Niewenhuis and his wife Maatje decided to do something about it. The couple volunteered their services to World Renew Disaster Response Services, a ministry of the Christian Reformed Church of North America. They spent several weeks assisting in reconstruction.

***Losing liberty, having every
second of every day
determined by the will of brute
authority, shrinks the
spirit of any human!***
— Scott Turow



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