

What a Gift!

GVSU Seniors Donate \$40,000 Project!

- **Four HFP IT projects!**
- **900 hours!**

Professor David Lange of Grand Valley State University's College of Computing and Mark Hartman, HFP Executive Director, were talking computers. During their high-tech conversation, Dr. Lange asked: "What would be at the top of HFP's information technology 'wish list'?" Mark responded with a list that was not short. After reviewing these many IT goals, he assigned not one, but two teams of senior Capstone Course students to work with us. He stated that only twice in the history of his Senior Capstone Course has he awarded two teams to a nonprofit organization!

Eight senior students, all about to become B.S. graduates in Computer Science, were assigned to work with HFP for the next 10 weeks. Students Adam Berend, Joseph Jungerheld III, Hailey Russell; and Alexandra Sanfratello (left) made up the The CtrlAltElite Team. This gang helped HFP with numerous projects,



highlighted by a brand new database! Serving on the Rapids Web Solutions Team were Andrew Smalldon, Vincent Meschi, Nathan Gelderbloom and Sam Pinho (left). They also did a ton of work for us, but the exciting news is that they gave Humanity for Prisoners' existing website an urgently needed facelift! Estimated cost of these projects, if hired: at least \$40,000.00!



Many Prisoners Will Eventually Be Released. They Need Help!

HFP assumes an increasing role in reentry preparation.

Serving

Executive Director Mark Hartman has been invited to serve on the prestigious Statewide Reentry Advisory

From the Desk of Doug

God Is Faithful

Just Ask Us!



"We do not have enough money to meet payroll next week!" That was the somber message of HFP Executive Director Mark Hartman to directors at their quarterly board meeting.

I must first explain that over the years we have learned to budget around certain expected sources of income. It's no secret that we live hand-to-mouth, and that these sources of income barely cover expenses. There's no money for frivolous spending. Our dollars pay people to help people. A gift to HFP touches lives!

This spring, however, an unexpected problem. A \$20,000 grant that was due on April 1 was delayed... dollars that would have covered us in our traditional spring drought. Where to go? What to do?

This has happened time and again in our 24-year history. Helping incarcerated men and women isn't a big money-maker. I remembered a former board member and her husband who, over the years, helped us time and again through similar struggles. I contacted them. Once, again, these kind and generous friends helped! We met payroll!

My dear friend and theologian Al Hoksbergen had a favorite Psalm, #121. I'm reminded of that today:

*I lift up my eyes to the mountains—
where does my help come from?*

*My help comes from the Lord,
the Maker of heaven and earth.*

*The Lord watches over you—
the Lord is your shade at your right hand;
the sun will not harm you by day,
nor the moon by night.*

— Doug Tjapkes, Founder

Council, a part of the Michigan Department of Corrections’ (MDOC) statewide reentry program. The goal of the council is to reduce recidivism by providing services to men and women in prison who are preparing to be released.

Interacting

HFP is participating in a project called the Reentry United Conference, developed by Michigan Works in partnership with the Michigan Department of Corrections. The goal of these conferences, scheduled to be held at five Michigan prisons this year, is to highlight successful partnerships, programs and services that can benefit returning citizens. HFP provided personnel and reentry materials and sage advice at two events so far this year. A third in-prison conference will be held in the U.P. this summer.

Participating

HFP CEO Hartman will be joined by Muskegon Correctional Facility warden James Scheibner and Hope College professor Dr. Richard Ray on a panel at a Re-Entry United Conference on August 15 at the downtown campus of Grand Valley State University. More than 200 are expected at the event.

Carter Story on the Move!

Mount Pleasant — April 12: HFP’s popular documentary, Wronged: The Maurice Carter Story, was screened at the 2025 Central Michigan International Film Festival. It was chosen from a field of hundreds for participation in the event. The film was produced by Nate Roels.

Toronto — July 2-7: Justice for Maurice Henry Carter, a stage play telling the Maurice Carter/ Doug Tjapkes story, will be presented at a renowned Canadian theatre festival. Toronto Fringe announced that the drama was selected as one of four plays to be featured this summer in the 2025 Next Stage Series!

Prisons

“...cramped double cells, the fetid air, the well-founded anxiety about beatings and sexual assaults are punishments beyond those prescribed by law.” — Scott Turow

Supreme Court Supports Juvenile Resentencing!

The State Appellate Defender Office recently announced that the Michigan Supreme Court put all questions to rest in a unanimous opinion on this issue. In January 2024, the Michigan Court of Appeals had held that all 18-year-olds sentenced to mandatory life without the possibility of parole are entitled to resentencing. The Court of Appeals found that mandatory death in prison for an 18-year-old violates Michigan's constitutional prohibition on cruel or unusual punishment, regardless of the date of the offense.

There’s Still Time to Miss HFP Event!



Tickets are still available for the famous 2025 HFP Unball. It’s a great way to support our

incredible work among state prisoners without attending one more fund-raiser. Tickets are \$100 apiece. Or take advantage of our very special HFP BUDGET OFFER: 2 tickets for \$300.00! All donations will be matched!

Typical Message to HFP

We recently had the privilege of helping an inmate connect with his 27-year-old son, whom he had never met. His note of thanks: "HFP, I sincerely appreciate you so much! I have connected with my son, and our bond is beyond amazing despite the distance or confinement. Nothing can ever divide love, especially when such positive energy is generated through your agency. Thank you so much for your help!"

In Memoriam



Ray Kuiper, 87, of Grand Haven, went home to be with the Lord on Monday, March 24, at a local care facility. A friend of founder Doug Tjapkes and a friend of Michigan prisoners, Ray

was involved in prison ministry for the past 25 years. Well done, good and faithful servant!



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