

DEADLY DIABETES!

Today, 1 in 11 Americans is living with diabetes
(That includes prisoners)

Call for help from a parent:

My daughter has been incarcerated at WHVCF for the past three and half years. Yesterday she came very close to death not once but twice. She is a diabetic and epileptic. The physician changed her insulin doses. My daughter has had 13 seizures since June 15, 2016. Yesterday the guards found her at 5 a.m. seizing, foaming at mouth because her blood sugar dropped to 10. It happened again at noon. Blood sugar was 10 again. The guards administered the glycogen shot but her blood sugar was not rising so they took her to medical unit to start an IV. But her blood sugar started rising so IV was not given. I don't want my daughter to die!

Cry for help from a prisoner at Oaks Correctional Facility:

This week I have been DELIBERATELY delayed for breakfast and dinner for over an hour 3 times. A C/O cussed me out for having to break diabetics first for dinner. Today was the worst. My sugar reading was 111 at 5:40 AM and I was given 10 units of MPH. Then I was not called to breakfast until 6:50. Dinner was a repeat. Now, starting tomorrow I will refuse insulin until the warden assures me I can eat within 30 to 45 minutes. What REALLY scares me is that I have NO food in the cell for emergencies, and the guards here WILL NOT answer the emergency light for sometimes 45 minutes. That is enough time to go into hypoglycemic shock and die. I bottom really quickly and that happened at Lakeland 4 times. At least there I could go tell the guard. Here I am locked in my room. Please pray for me here.

HFP consults with one of our physicians:

Diabetes is a serious condition that is often difficult to manage properly. It requires timely insulin injections, followed very quickly by eating a properly balanced diet. When the meals and the injections are not coordinated very specifically, a person is subject to hypoglycemia (low blood sugar) which can result in seizures and even death.

Prison response

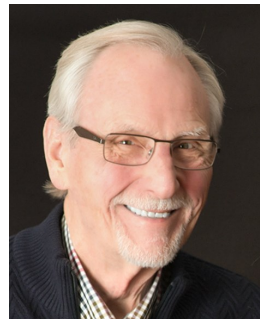
Thank you for your concerns. Be advised that concerns of this nature are taken very seriously and we can assure that prompt attention will be given to this matter. I have shared the information that you've provided in this email with our Health Care staff for review and appropriate handling.

The mother breathes a sigh of relief!

What a day I have had. I all most feel like I have won the Lottery. So before I go to bed and wake up to a hectic day tomorrow I want to give a BIG THANK YOU to Doug Tjapkes. He is President of Humanity for Prisoners and is stepping in to help me with my daughter's health issues. Doug, you can never believe the amount of weight you have taken off my shoulders. I know we are just getting the ball rolling but just to know someone is willing to step in is a tremendous relief. I appreciate Paul Egan from Detroit Free Press for his help in this too. I was stunned to get his phone call this morning. I didn't know where to turn to and both of you took the time out of your busy schedules to contact me....which is more than I can say for the prison. I cannot thank you enough.

From the desk of Doug: HFP is needed, God is faithful

Gloria Gaither tells a neat story about a farmer in her church when she was growing up. She said the man was obviously concerned about his crops that year because of considerable debt, including college tuition for his daughter. In the worship service on a Sunday morning, she said that he noticeably relaxed as the congregation sang the



words of a popular hymn **GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS: "All I have needed thy hand hath provided..."**

That story came to mind recently when our second major fund-raising event of the year was canceled. Last spring, we were forced to call off the stage presentations of DRIVING MISS DAISY, after one of the cast members was diagnosed with a terminal illness. That strained our financial situation, but we leaned heavily on the potential success of our second fundraiser, a public appearance by nationally known activist Sister Helen Prejean. Then, to our dismay, she was forced to cancel due to terminal illness of a family member.

The response wasn't panic, but you can bet that it was far from excitement. Then, upon reflection, we remembered that God has always been faithful--- when we lost Maurice Carter, when we lost our office in Muskegon, when a staph infection nearly claimed my life, and through many more valleys. He's been faithful right from the beginning!

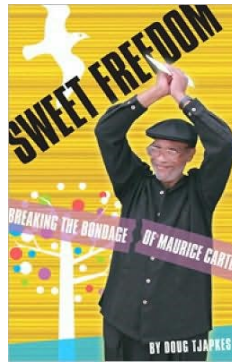
It was time to listen to the words of our consultant:

"He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion." That's God's promise, and HFP is a great work!

Did you get your copy yet?

Thanks to a gift from a generous anonymous donor, Humanity for Prisoners has the opportunity to give away copies of HFP President Doug Tjapkes' book, Sweet Freedom. The story brings you into the world of Tjapkes as he leads a team of volunteers on a 10-year mission to gain the release of Maurice Carter, a wrongly convicted prisoner serving a life sentence.

HFP has about a dozen copies left to give away as of publication time. If you haven't had a chance to get one, call 616.935.0075 or email matt@humanityforprisoners.org.



A message and a gift from First Christian Reformed Church, Grand Haven!

One of our community ministries is our Metal & Electronics Recycle Ministry. Through this ministry our volunteers collect, sort, take apart and recycle materials people no longer want. Items that were otherwise destined for the landfill get a new chance at life through recycling. Over the past 7 years we have recycled nearly 1.5 million pounds from the Tri-Cities community! Over the years we have used proceeds from these recycling efforts to benefit others. Now First Church wants to go full-circle and return a portion of our recycle blessings back into the community in which we live and worship. So, we are tithing a percentage of our receipts to agencies like yours. Enclosed is our check for \$212.00. We ask that you use this gift in a tangible way to further help the people you serve.

HFP's New Commutation Specialist

When Holly Honig heard Doug speak at Fountain Street Church on August 7, she felt she had to do something! "I have been looking for a place, a way to make a meaningful contribution. I listened to Doug as he shared stories about different individuals and their situations. These stories of unkindness and inhumanity moved me to tears. The stories reminded me of how the system can be unfairly stacked against so many people who find themselves sucked into it. I want to make a difference for these human beings who, for the most part, have been given up on."

Doug and Matt had been looking for a volunteer to help prisoners in preparing their application forms for commutation of sentence. The forms are available online, but HFP is finding that inmates need a lot of assistance in preparing these applications. We help, not only in cleaning up grammar and spelling, but in the actual wording of the answers. We watch closely for comments that would not be appropriate, or that might have a negative impact. It's time-consuming, but it is important, and Michigan inmates greatly appreciate the assistance!

Holly comes well qualified. A resident of Spring Lake and mother of three grown children, she is on the staff at Herman Miller as the company's Senior Manager of Human Dynamics & Work.

If you have a skill that you think HFP can use to help prisoners, or if you're interested in coming in to our office for a couple hours a week to help file, please contact us at 616.935.0075 or info@humanityforprisoners.org.



Just what does HFP do?

In a recent retreat, working with a consultant and the Development Committee, HFP directors agreed that this is an accurate list of our objectives:

Conveying the availability of personalized services for inmates and their families.

Communicating with prison and state officials regarding inmate rights and necessities

Pursuing empathetic and effective care for prisoners in need of medical attention or facing imminent death

Overcoming barriers to fair and equal treatment of all incarcerated persons including those with intellectual, sensory, emotional, or physical impairments

Directing inmates to effective legal aid

Negotiating legitimate institutional issues that arise during confinement

Assisting the imprisoned in research considered weighty to their situation

Facilitating programs that provide inmates with opportunities for positive societal impact.

Seeking rightful resolutions to wrongful convictions

Aiding parole, release and commutation efforts

Referring reasonable inmate inquiries that fall outside HFP assistance parameters

Sister Helen Prejean Appearance Canceled

Humanity for Prisoners regretfully announces that Sister Helen Prejean's appearance in Grand Haven on September 19 is canceled. Sister Prejean informed the organization that a close family member has been diagnosed with cancer and has been given a very short time to live.

This is the second major fundraiser this year, along with the Driving Miss Daisy play this spring, that HFP has been forced to cancel due to cancer. HFP is working diligently to find another author to come in this fall, but will gratefully accept any donations to help get us through while we reorganize.

**Donate
To HFP
Online**
Humanityforprisoners.org