

MDOC Denies HFP Request for Hospital Visitation Policy Change

The Michigan Department of Corrections will not modify its policy for visitation of prisoners in private hospitals.

That's the word from MDOC Director Heidi Washington.

Humanity for Prisoners had sought the change after the parents of

a dying inmate were denied additional visits, when a physician determined that the inmate's condition had slightly improved. The prisoner was in a coma and on a ventilator. He died three days later, with no family members in attendance.

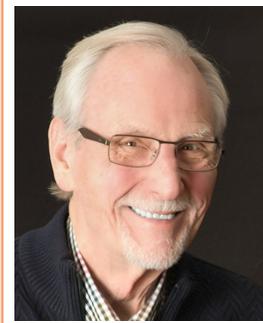


HFP President Doug Tjapkes asked the department to consider two modifications: 1, allowing loved ones to visit critically ill patients in the hospital, even when death does not appear to be imminent; and 2, an avenue of appeal if a physician determines

that the improvement of an inmate's condition no longer warrants family visits.

Director Washington: "...there will not be modifications to the hospital visitation policy at this time."

From the desk of Doug: On doing good - Little things mean a lot!



Four of us who share a common burden regarding the plight of prisoners were chatting

over lunch. "I find it amazing," said Lisa Blystra of Crossroads Prison Ministries, "how little it takes to give someone hope."

She was referring to the fact that a letter from a volunteer once every few weeks made a difference in an inmate's life.

Members of the HFP team rediscover this truth daily. We become discouraged when we don't get the desired response as we strive for improved medical care, or attempt to arrange a funeral visit, or prepare a commutation application, or seek missing court documents, or try to find a missing relative. I must keep reminding all of us that success is measured by more than actual completion of the mission. The fact that somebody cared and somebody tried makes all the difference! That is success.

To underscore this, our friends in Michigan prisons daily shower us with words of thanks and gratitude, regardless of a particular outcome.

We're there for them when they don't know where to turn. Some days, that's enough.

The famous author Anon is right on target with this one: **Never stop doing little things for others. Sometimes those little things occupy the biggest part of their hearts.**

...let us not grow weary of doing good... Galatians 6:9

...and I am an artist!

HFP Benefit Prisoner Art Exhibit opens this month



Artworks in Big Rapids invites you to the August-September Gallery exhibit

August 8-September 22

Public Reception August 9 5:30-7 p.m.

ARTWORKS CULTURAL CENTER

106 N Michigan Avenue, Big Rapids, MI

Featuring works by artists in the Michigan prison system

Most items for sale - All profits to benefit HFP

HFP: Preparing Michigan prisoners for their Parole Board session

Just the thought of meeting with the Parole Board creates anxiety for many Michigan prisoners. And for good reason. If they blow it in their two-year or five-year review, they'll get a "flop." In other words, parole isn't on the horizon. If the Public Hearing doesn't go well, the same thing. He or she won't be getting out for a while.

Several prisoner advocacy agencies and some prisoner groups have assembled documents and even training programs

to help inmates in preparing for the Parole Board encounter. Humanity for Prisoners has taken it one step further. Using all of these resources, as well as the personal experiences of the HFP team, Vice President Holly Honig-Josephson has created a new 12-page document titled **You're meeting with Michigan Parole Board. ...What next? Tips and Guidance from your friends at Humanity for Prisoners.**

She's coming to Grand Haven!



Continuing its tradition of bringing popular speakers to western Michigan, HFP is proud to announce that Sister Helen Prejean will give a public address in Grand Haven on Tuesday, October 23. Save the date! More details later.

Glimpses Behind Bars

Happy Father's Day at Brooks CF?

I hope you had a wonderful day with your families. My husband has a hard time on Father's day and typically spends it looking at pictures and reminiscing. This year he woke up to find that JPay had selectively removed the pictures of his kids, his aunt, and her family. No explanation, just took them... his family pictures. How cruel is that?

Overworked Officers at Huron Valley

Yesterday I had an officer in my unit that had been here 22 hours before she was relieved. Imagine her drive home? I was told by staff that they are working 16-hour shifts. It is affecting the population, however now we are worried about the staff and their families and the people on the roads with them.

Bad water for prisoners, good water for officers and dogs, Ionia CF

The water here is near undrinkable especially the water from the sinks at the end of the wing (our primary source of hot water). The water in our cells leaves a film on our dishes and cups. The administration assures us that the water is perfectly drinkable yet they instruct their officers to bring water in from the outside. All the water used in the chow hall must be filtered before it can be used. To top it off they bring in bottled water for the dog program.

Proud graduation day at Cooper Street CF, but no coverage

Last week here at Cooper Street CF was a ceremony for the graduate class of 2018, through Jackson College. The event lasted over an hour, the President and Vice President of the college spoke. But for such a momentous occasion this event was not covered by any media nor any mention in a newspaper, that I am aware of.

Inflation in the prison store, but no increase in prison pay

The store prices have gone up twice in the last 6 months. The state pay remains the same at 74 cents a day for unskilled workers. That's less than \$20 a month. Look at these changes: Tuna, from 2.25 to 2.81 to 3.54! Chili, 2.08 to 3.05 to 3.33! Salami 1.48 to 1.58 to 1.70. If we don't have family support, we can barely afford hygiene items. Shampoo is \$8.00! Very unfair!

Broken elevator at Brooks CF

The elevator at Brooks has not been working for the last two weeks and no one has bothered to come and fix it, therefore prisoners who are wheelchair bound are confined to their wing. My husband said that he helped one man in a wheelchair who wanted to go outside, by pulling his wheelchair up a large flight of concrete stairs, however the majority of people in wheelchairs are stuck.

Dale's Corner



This month's suggestion from HFP Financial Consultant Dale Ringerwole on interesting and creative ways to support HFP.

You can donate a cash value life insurance policy, and have HFP cash out the cash value and surrender the policy.

Watch for another helpful suggestion next month!

Third video released!



HFP introduces the third in a series of 5-minute videos telling the story of our work. To watch it now, go to the HFP web site: www.humanityforprisoners.org



Creations by women behind bars at Huron Valley CF using yarn donated by HFP

**Donate to
HFP online:
Humanityforprisoners.org**