

Prisoner Art Exhibit

August 4—September 14



Artworks in Big Rapids is pleased to announce the August-September Gallery exhibit titled

"...and I am an artist."

30 outstanding pieces of art, created by Michigan prisoners, will be on exhibit at ARTWORKS CULTURAL CENTER, 106 N. Michigan Avenue, in Big Rapids, Michigan.

A public exhibit reception is scheduled for August 9, 5:30-7:00 PM. Most of the items will be for sale, and all profits will benefit HFP.

Welcome to the board!

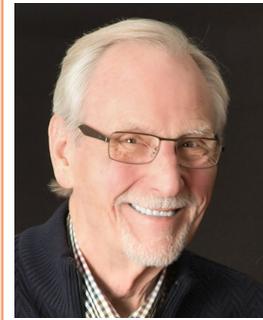


Dr. Michelle Loyd-Page is the Executive Associate to the President for Diversity and Inclusion at Calvin College in Grand Rapids, and is an associate pastor at Angel Community Church in Muskegon. She resides in Muskegon Heights.



Dr. Veena Kulkarni-Rankin is a concert pianist, and serves as lead instructor at the Faber Piano Institute in Ann Arbor. She is one of the worship leaders for the Ann Arbor Christian Reformed Church.

From the desk of Doug: Bad people? Nope! Gifted Artists!



Prisoners get a bad rap. I mean that! The media bombard us daily with stories about brutal and vicious

crimes, and therefore we come to the conclusion that our prisons must be filled with those vile people. But 'tain't so!

HFP is pleased to be working with the people at Artworks of Big Rapids to arrange an art exhibit that will blow your mind!

I never cease to be amazed at the talent behind bars. Over the years I have met such gifted people---musicians, writers, speakers, artists. True, many of them have messed up at one time or another, but it didn't take way from their God-given abilities. As we worked to assemble paintings for the Big Rapids exhibit, our team was impressed all over again by the gifts of talented prisoners.

Michigan prisoners are not allowed to run a business while serving their sentences, and they're not marketing these pieces. They have made donations of art because of their sincere appreciation for our work and our services. Most of the paintings and drawings on exhibit will be for sale, and we're pleased to report that profits from this sale will go toward our work.

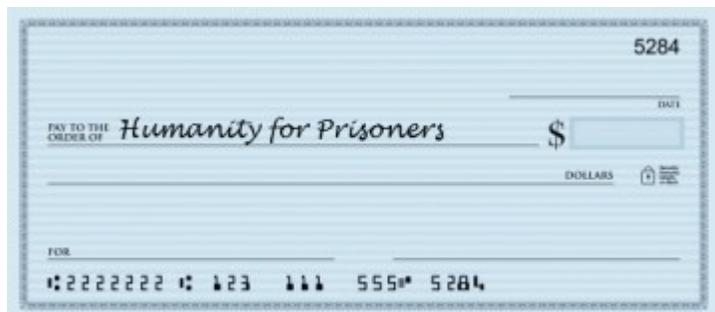
These artists are so proud of their work, and we're so grateful for their participation!

I'm inviting you to the exhibit. I promise you it'll be worth the drive.

If black men are routinely, systematically, and categorically pulled over, arrested, indicted, and sentenced longer than their white counterparts for the same crime, that "justice system" is death masquerading as life. People of color are no more criminal than white people in any category, they are simply suspected, charged, and punished more.

-Jen Hatmaker

HFP Receives Ultimate Vote of Confidence!



Once again, Humanity for Prisoners has been the recipient of a Prisoner Benefit Fund (PBF) grant. A \$500 contribution has been received from the Saginaw Correctional Facility in Freeland, Michigan.

Every prison has a PBF, which is mostly used to fund services, equipment and supplies that have a direct benefit to prisoners. The money comes primarily from the prison store, vending machines, photo ticket sales, and hobby craft sales. It is administered by a committee made up of two inmates who serve on the Warden's Forum, as well as two staff members designated by the Warden.

Since its inception in 2001, Humanity for Prisoners has been the recipient of numerous PBF gifts from several Michigan prisons. We consider these donations as the highest compliment...the ultimate expression of praise and support for the work and the services we provide!

HFP helps pave the future for newly released inmate!

I am looking forward to the future, but I cannot discount the way that I have been able to make it through my past. Humanity for Prisoners has played a major role in keeping my spirits lifted, my mind focused on the important goals and priorities, and encouraged me to pursue changes that would make a difference in the lives of others. I couldn't begin that journey without acknowledging that you saw enough "value" (my word) in people (and in particular myself) that you would invest yourself in us.

No visits just prior to inmate's death

My question is, why wasn't the family notified that my sister was in such poor health and on her deathbed? When I called the prison to see when I could visit, I was informed that if a prisoner was that sick, they would have been transferred to a hospital and no longer be in the prison infirmary. Also, was told I could not visit until Friday, June 1. Unfortunately, my sister passed away on Tuesday, May 29, the day I called. I had wanted to visit her that day. I'm sure the medical personnel were aware of her condition. I can't believe the prison system would not want family to visit a dying inmate. That is just so inhumane. Can you tell me if this is normal protocol for prisons? I'm just heartbroken that I was not allowed to see her before she passed.

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

Dale's Corner



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

Donate depreciated real estate such as a rental house. Per my last discussion with one of the CPAs with whom I work, if the property was depreciated on a straight line basis, you can donate the property, take a deduction for the actual value, and not have to pay the capital gains recapture tax.

Time to end prisoner medical co-pay!

Michigan prisoners must cough up a \$5 co-pay, equal to 35 hours of wages, for every medical visit. HFP argues that Michigan legislators should follow in the footsteps of Illinois lawmakers, who dropped their prisoner medical co-pay plan.

Out-of-reach co-pays in prisons and jails have two unintended but inevitable consequences which make them counterproductive and even dangerous. First, when sick people avoid the doctor, disease is more likely to spread to others in the facility – and into the community, when people are released before being treated. Second, illnesses are likely to worsen as long as people avoid the doctor, which means more aggressive (and expensive) treatment when they can no longer go without it. Correctional agencies may be willing to take that risk and hope that by the time people seek care, their treatment will be someone else's problem. But medical co-pays encourage a dangerous waiting game for incarcerated people, correctional agencies, and the public – which none of us can afford.

Wendy Sawyer,
Prison Policy Initiative