

HFP

Humanity for Prisoners

Action with Compassion

June, 2017

Dear friend of HFP:

I have exciting news! Once again this year, your June contribution will be doubled! As it stands at the moment, all gifts will be matched up to a total of \$15,000.00. The total may go even higher.

All of this happens while the HFP team struggles to keep up with record-breaking numbers each month. *It isn't that prisoners have more needs, now. Prisoners are just discovering that somebody cares! And that somebody is YOU!*

I realize that statistics are boring, but not in this case:

- **373 contacts on behalf of prisoners---a new record---in April!**
- **By mid-May, total contacts for the year had exceeded 1,500!**
- **By mid-year, we will have worked with more than 450 prisoners already in 2017!**

The reason these numbers aren't boring is simple. We're not really talking about numbers, here...we're talking about people.

- **Rod's friend has cancer, and state doctors are dragging their feet re treatment.**
- **Mark's visitation privileges have all been canceled due to trumped up charges.**
- **Sharon has no one to speak on her behalf at a Public Hearing.**
- **Sanford can't get his pre-sentence investigation report, needed for the Parole Board.**
- **A doctor took away William's cane.**
- **Ann has dementia, soils herself, and staff won't help her with clothing issues.**
- **Post-surgery pain is excruciating for Michael, but doctors refuse his meds.**

We're the one agency that works *only* on a one-to-one basis with every prisoner on our list. There's no need too great or too insignificant for us to tackle. We touch the lives of real people in need.

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The grants from a couple of caring foundations that make possible a match of your June gift could not have arrived at a better time, because there are critical needs.

Besides handling the immediate rush of requests, we sense God calling us...

- **to reach even more prisoners in turmoil throughout the state (and perhaps beyond?)**
- **to recruit and train more volunteers and possibly even staff members**
- **to expand the commutation application services we offer prisoners at no charge**
- **to better alert and educate the public as to the plight of those behind bars**
- **to expand our collaboration efforts with other agencies and ministries.**

I'm writing to you because you get it. Otherwise your name would not be on our list. We're painfully aware that not everyone cares about prisoners. A church recently turned down our request for support, saying that it preferred to underwrite missionaries who "taught" the message of Jesus. We refute the contention that inmates deserve all the pain and misery life can dish out to them. We contend that we're modeling Jesus!

A former board member recently listed three things about HFP that keep his support coming: Promptness (prisoners and their families don't wait, wondering if anyone here received their message); Persistence (our efforts on behalf of some inmates now go beyond 10 years); and Personal attention (we care, and they know it).

So, will you help us with a special mid-year gift in this exciting and fulfilling work? Your partnership will enable direct response to the avalanche of problems flooding our office.

Thank you, in advance, for your prayerful consideration.

Your advocate for the "least of these,"

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Douglas J. Tjapkes". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D'.

Douglas J. Tjapkes, President

PS - An exact quote just received from the wife of a prisoner: **Thank you again for your time and compassion toward inmates and their families. It is invaluable!**