

June gifts doubled! Matching grant received

We're pleased to announce that your June contribution will be matched. Please consider a slightly larger one-time gift. \$10 extra from you this month will give HFP \$20.00, which enables us to send 100 email messages to prisoners!

HFP seeks relaxation of MDOC hospital visit policy

Humanity for Prisoners has asked the Michigan Department of Corrections to modify its position on visits for prisoners who are in private hospitals for treatment of serious illness or injury. As it stands now, visits---even by immediate family---are not permitted unless death is deemed imminent. HFP cited a recent case where the parents of an inmate were approved for a visit because their son was in a coma. However, when some response was detected by the tending physician, their visitation rights were terminated as it appeared death was no longer imminent. The prisoner died three days later. Alone.

In a personal appeal to MDOC Director Heidi Washington, HFP President Doug Tjapkes asked for a slight modification in policy allowing loved ones to visit the critically ill, even if death does not appear to be imminent. "We think this is a far more humane approach, and we are supported by medical experts who believe that such visits can also be healing for the patient," said Tjapkes. He said HFP has received complaints from families of dying prisoners regarding this policy for many years. In addition to the modification of this policy, HFP is also requesting that the Department provide an avenue of appeal if hospital visitation is denied. Under the current plan, loved ones cannot appeal such decisions.

Friend of a Michigan prisoner responds to HFP announcement

Thanks for doing this, Doug and Matt. I have always found it horrific that the very same prisoner you are permitted to visit while he or she is healthy enough to go to the visiting room, is suddenly completely cut off from their friends and family at a dire time. I so appreciate the compassion and common sense you bring to your work.

Another prison visitation problem

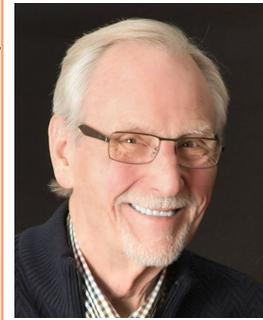
My mother came to see me on Sunday, April 15, and was refused to be let in because she cannot go through the metal detectors. She has a heart pace-maker because she is battling cancer. I believe that was kinda harsh to reject the visit when they could have pat her down or scan her with the wand. If there is anything that can be done I truly appreciate it.

Editor's note: The MDOC was contacted, and Rudy's mother will be permitted to visit next time.

New masthead, new logo, new brochure!

HFP was in no position to spend money on seriously overdue literature updates. Another of our generous supporters stepped up to the plate. Our thanks to this anonymous donor, and her talented graphic artist Michael Kolk of Holland for the HFP facelift!

From the desk of Doug: On making hay while the sun shines! Exciting HFP gift!



At the end of every year we formulate a letter to all of our friends, reminding them that December

gifts get doubled, thanks to a generous HFP supporter. We are assured that will happen again this year.

BUT

We have been blessed with a mid-year grant that makes a last-minute appeal possible for June contributions! Thanks to a generous grant from an area foundation with a heart, we are pleased to announce that all financial donations this month will be doubled.

The timing was perfect.

The HFP team has been responding to more appeals for help and assistance than ever before. Records continue to be broken week after week, month after month. It wasn't that long ago when response to 2,500 contacts made for a busy year. In 2018, we had topped 2,500 in the first five months!

Because of this, our Board of Directors faces immediate challenges. We need more office space. Our staff must be expanded. We need more volunteers. We try to do as much of this as possible on a low budget. Volunteers and interns, for example, can provide valuable services at minimum expense.

But growth in activity costs money. Your slightly larger June gift can make a big difference in this business of touching lives.

Thanks for being there for us.

Bursting with Flavor!



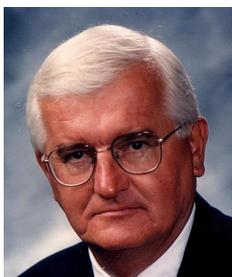
"We had volunteer appreciation dinner this past week. Well because I worked it I was able to eat there as well. I have been in this prison going on six years. My body has been deprived of fresh fruit and vegetables for that long. At this meal there were platters full of the most beautifully colorful fruits and vegetables: broccoli, cauliflower, carrots, green peppers, watermelon, cantaloupe, grapes, strawberries, and pineapples. In order to understand this you have to imagine a world where the above never existed, where you only see canned vegetables that are so overcooked they are a brownish color with no vitamins left in them, and where the only fresh fruit you see are apples that have absolutely no flavor. When my body consumed these colorful wonders it began singing. I looked up to the heavens, closed my eyes and thanked God for filling my mind, body, and soul with those wonderfully, colorful, God-made vitamins. There is so much in life that we take for granted. The next time you walk through the produce department at the grocery store, remember the hundreds of thousands of human beings who long to just taste fresh vegetables and fruit. Then take a bite for them!"

An inmate at Women's Huron Valley Correctional Institution

In Memoriam



David Duyst 1959-2018



John C. Carlyle, 1938-2018

Inmate David Duyst, long-time friend of HFP, died from complications of double pneumonia on April 16. Grand Haven attorney John Carlyle, who miraculously guided the 501c3 application through the IRS on behalf of HFP in 2001, died on April 22. We loved them both, and send warm condolences to the families of both.

Persons wishing to remember David or John with a memorial gift to HFP may send their contributions to PO Box 687, Grand Haven, MI 49417. Families will be notified of all gifts received.

Dale's Corner



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

Donate appreciated assets such as stocks. The market has had a nice run. Why not donate stock that has appreciated, get the deduction, and avoid paying capital gains taxes?

Watch for another helpful suggestion next month!

The heat is OFF!

In response to a recent HFP Blog about the extreme temperatures inmates are exposed to, an inmate's wife wrote HFP:

"My husband tells me they turned off the heat already this year, not even the date they usually do. The inmates have been freezing on their metal slab beds with only an inch of lumpy mattress between them and the metal, and one blanket. How does that help someone feel positive about reentering society? It engenders feelings of anger born of pain from abuse, and neglect, and abandonment. When inmates become desperate and angry enough to strike back, they are labeled animals. No one delves into the reason for their desperation...hunger, cold, ignored illness, belittlement, and being treated like vermin. Who are the real animals? How can inmates rejoin the world when the world turned blind eyes, deaf ears, and slammed doors to them?"

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