



DOUBLED!



Matching Gift Campaign

— Your gift today can go twice as far —

Once again, foundation gifts have made it possible to double all year-end contributions to HUMANITY FOR PRISONERS up to \$50,000! You can donate the old-fashioned way, by sending cash or check to our mailing address---PO Box 687, Grand Haven, MI 49417. Or, you are welcome to use the new-fangled methods online with credit cards or bank account transfers at our website, humanityforprisoners.org. Your generosity will be doubled!

Sweet Freedom Legacy Circle

HFP announces partnership with GHACF



Grand Haven Area community foundationSM

In another step forward in our community engagement efforts, Board Chairman Russ Bloem announces that HFP has signed agreements with the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation (GHACF) to establish 2 fund accounts which will facilitate planned giving through the Sweet Freedom Legacy Society. The **HFP Legacy Fund** will receive unrestricted gifts which can be used as and when most needed. The **HFP Endowment Fund** will receive and accumulate gifts intended to support our agency over the long haul. We are proud to become a part of the GHACF network of agencies working to improve lives in our Lakeshore community. For more information on the Sweet Freedom Legacy Circle check out our website.

Alex Kotlowitz comes to Grand Haven!



More than 100 persons turned out at the St Patrick's Family Center to hear well-known Chicago author and journalist Alex Kotlowitz on October 14. Following the presentation Alex signed copies of his new book, AN AMERICAN SUMMER. His friendship with HFP founder Doug Tjapkes dates back to the Maurice Carter days in the 1990s. He had high praise for the work of HFP! Take four minutes to watch his video use this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bml224egrdo>

From the desk of Doug:

The HFP team
Unsung Heroes!

The world is moved not only by the mighty shoves of the heroes, but also by the aggregate of the tiny pushes of each honest

worker.

-- Helen Keller



In my final column of 2019, I'm moved to nominate

our team for the praiseworthy title of "Unsung Heroes."

My name is often synonymous with HFP. It's not because I'm so great. It's because I was the only staffer for years.

But word of our services spread. Our reputation spread. Our credibility and integrity became recognized. As a result, we got busy. Very busy! So, we added another person. Then another!

It takes a team to adequately, responsibly, compassionately respond to 1000+ calls per month from prisoners and/or their representatives. Led by CEO Matt Tjapkes, our capable staff of Susie Greenbauer, Melissa Tjapkes and Holly Honig-Josephson daily and conscientiously attack issues that help to reduce the long line of prisoners with personal problems. And I still fill in the cracks, when and where needed.

Behind the scenes are Medical Director Dr. Bob Bulten, Legal Director Brent Geers, and a whole team of doctors and lawyers representing a variety of specialties...ready right now to assist when and where needed.

We're backed up and supported by an exemplary, dedicated, working Board of Directors.

Ask any prisoner. They're all heroes. What a team!

Prisoner Awareness Sunday

An outline for helping church members to see and hear and feel the plight of Michigan prisoners has been developed by Humanity for Prisoners. The pilot project took place at Ferrysburg Community Church, just north of Grand Haven. On Sunday morning, November 3, HFP Board Member John Rottman was guest speaker for a pre-service adult education class. Dr. Rottman, a professor at Calvin Theological Seminary, has a long history of prisoner involvement. He also served as guest speaker at the morning worship service. Prior to the morning offering for HFP, Doug Tjapkes introduced James Hicks of Detroit, whose sentence was commuted late last year thanks to our efforts. Pastor Nate Visker was highly enthused, and hopes to make this an annual event for FCC. It's a template that can work in your church. Contact our office to start advance planning.



Dr. John Rottman and Parolee James Hicks pose with Doug Tjapkes following special service at Ferrysburg Community Church.

Domestic Violence Workshop at Gus Harrison CF

The subject of domestic violence hit home for more than two-dozen inmates at Gus Harrison Correctional Facility in Adrian. Our correspondent, Ricardo Ferrell, reports that nearly 30 inmates turned out for a workshop conducted by Candy Taulton and Jess Little, legal advocates for the Catherine Cobb Safe House of Lenawee County. The National Lifers chapter had scheduled the event in observance of Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October.

"One of the most beautiful things about HFP is that they support people because they are people, because they recognize the dignity and humanity which each person has, no matter how broken their life has become."

The Rev Dr Jared Kramer, Nov. 6, Grand Haven Tribune

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays from all of us at HFP!

Prisoners Support HFP

Time and again, Michigan prisoners demonstrate their support of the work of Humanity for Prisoners. Our most recent gift was a \$500 check from the Prisoner Benefit Fund at Alger Correctional Facility in Munising. The fund is made up of money collected from prison vending machines and the prison store, and a committee of staff and prisoners decides on disbursements. We proudly accept these gifts as the ultimate compliment from those we serve.

Birthday Boy

HFP founder Doug Tjapkes turned 83 on November 11. Over a hundred well-wishers sent him birthday greetings on Facebook, including this former prisoner - "...you were placed in my path at exactly the moment when I needed your guidance" - and this mother of a former prisoner - "You have helped so many....we are included in that group."

Grisham Quotes

Best-selling author John Grisham's newest book, *The Guardians*, is an excellent read, and deals with wrongful convictions. As always, some of his quotes ring a bell with our readers:

"Prison is a nightmare for those who deserve it. For those who don't, it is a daily struggle to maintain some level of sanity."

"Nothing is easy in prison. Rules are extreme, or they are amended on the fly---whatever it takes to waste more time."

"It's fairly easy to convict an innocent man and virtually impossible to exonerate one."