

He's a winner!



Dr. Robert Bulten of West Olive has received the very first **Maurice H. Carter Humanitarian Award**, presented by Humanity for Prisoners. Dr. Bulten is shown here receiving the award from HFP President Doug Tjapkes in a public ceremony. The Carter award will be presented each year to a volunteer who helps to make a difference in the lives of Michigan prisoners.

Dr. Bulten, whose Behavioral Medicine office is located in Grand Rapids, serves as Medical Consultant for HFP. "As one of more than 50 professional volunteers who assist us on a daily basis in showing compassion to needy prisoners," Tjapkes said, "Dr. Bulten's contributions to our agency are invaluable!"



The hand-crafted leather plaque was created by Native American John Aslin, a Michigan prison inmate. The award is named in honor of Maurice Carter, who served 29 years for a crime he did not commit.

And this award winner is coming here!

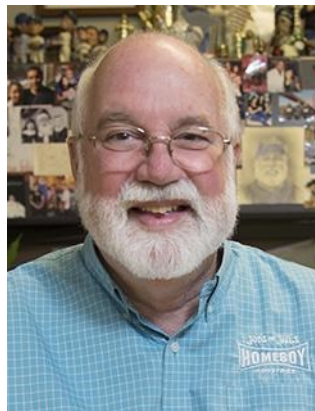
Fr. Greg Boyle, author of *TATOOS ON THE HEART*, will make a public appearance in Grand Haven on October 12 in a fund-raising event for HFP. Watch for further details.

Jesuit Father Greg Boyle, who started a social enterprise in Los Angeles to help young people avert a life of gangs, drug abuse and street violence, recently received the University of Notre Dame's Laetare Medal, according to Catholic News Service. Father Boyle, 62, founder and executive director of Homeboy Industries, was honored during commencement ceremonies at the university May 21.

"For nearly 30 years, Father Boyle has served men and women who have been incarcerated and involved with gangs, and, in doing so, has helped them to discover the strength and hope necessary to transform their lives," Holy Cross Father John I. Jenkins, university president, said in a statement.

"Father Boyle's solidarity with our sisters and brothers at the margins of society offers an inspiring model of faith in action. We are grateful for the witness of his life and honored to bestow this award on him," Father Jenkins added.

To see Fr. Boyle's acceptance speech, visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8eQsHEjfRrY>.



From the desk of Doug: Servants needed! HFP looks to the future

"What is the essence of life? To serve others and to do good."

Aristotle

A lot has happened in 16 years! And that's an understatement.

It started off as a tiny office in the old county jail building in downtown Muskegon, because the rent was free. Under the name



INNO-

CENT, we tried to help any deserving prisoner in America. Years later more adjustments: a move to Grand Haven, focusing our services to only Michigan inmates, and changing our name. HUMANITY FOR PRISONERS was perfect.

Nothing in our history has been as dramatic as the increase in our workload in 2017! We've already touched the lives of 500 Michigan prisoners this year! Surging numbers of prisoners served, and numbers of requests for assistance are prompting our Board of Directors to take a hard look at the future right now.

Not only must we consider immediate needs, like more clerical volunteers, but succession planning is also a must. At age 80 and in good health, now is the perfect time for me to work with a potential new leader. Matt is committed to serve for at least one more year as Executive Director, so that demands immediate consideration. Is it time, also, to consider appointment of a Development Director to help pay for all this?

Of this we are certain: It's time for future planning. And praying!

Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'

Martin Luther King, Jr.

PRISONERS APPRECIATE HFP!

I would just like for you all to know that you are some of my favorite people alive. I was sitting up thinking about all of my favorites, and you all manifested onto my finger-tips. Please give all there my deepest regards and respects. You should know that I invest a lot of time in the studies of St. Francis and I have very deep interest in the art of reflection. With that being said, the traits that you all possess, the methods in which you apply, the care and concern that you display, can only be a divine love. You all remind me of the Shepherd who left the 99 sheep behind just to go back for the 1 who got lost along the way. The one who got lost still has value in your eyes. You all still do for the "least of these," and WE all thank you from not only inside the belly of the beast, but also from the bottom of our hearts.



Hand-made card to HFP from 82-year-old Willie Jeffries, #171333

- Just wanted to inform you that I got a letter from my daughter today. She was at the first address that you provided me with. She finally wrote and I was very happy to get the letter. I just wanted to inform you that I heard from her and thank you for your time and efforts

-I'm so blessed! Just wanted to deliver the good news... I got accepted into Calvin Prison Initiative! Praise God! Thank all of you so much.

-Thank you from the bottom of my heart for coming to my public hearing yesterday. I know it was a very long day for you. Please know that I am so very grateful for your presence there and your speaking on my behalf.

-Thank you for emailing the pictures to me .There is a special place in heaven for people like you. I'm serious! I don't think that you guys realize just how much you help people, and make us feel important, and not forgotten. THANK YOU.

-Praise the Lord, I received my boxes of legal paperwork today. Thank you so very much. There is paper work in her that I never received through the courts. I am blessed to get it, and now can move forward. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for all you have done.

And yet, prison is no place to be:

I believe that if there is a hell, it can never be worse than this. To know that you are alive but dead to the world. To know that you can live and see what beauty there is in life, but denied to make a beautiful life. The horrors of others' convictions and mental capacities. It once upon a time reminded me of DANTE'S INFERNO.

Facelift needed!

So much has changed in the work, the goals, and the accomplishments in the HFP office, since our founding 16 years ago. But one thing that hasn't changed: our literature! Our consultant, our Board, our Development Committee are all in agreement---we need a complete overhaul. We are reluctant to use the gifts we receive for anything other than prison advocacy. So, we are looking for a huge favor: professional pro-bono services in graphic arts and public relations. Will your company consider this as a tax write-off? Give Matt a call: 616 935 0075.

**Donate
To HFP
Online
Humanityfor
prisoners.org**