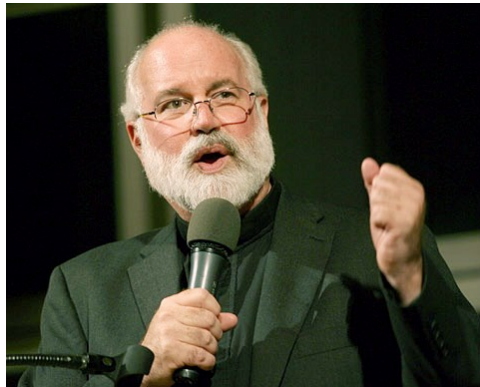


DON'T MISS THESE HFP BENEFIT PROGRAMS!

Fr. Greg Boyle in Grand Haven



Fr. Gregory Boyle, author of *TATTOOS ON THE HEART* and founder of Homeboy Industries makes a personal appearance Thursday, October 12, 7 PM, Lakeshore Middle School. Details on line. Tickets available online or at the Bookman in Grand Haven. \$25 now, \$30 at the door. The school is located at 900 Cutler Street.

Duo 1717 in Ann Arbor



Veena Kulkarni-Rankin and Jean Bernard Cerin present a program for social justice Sunday, October 22, 3:30 PM, at the Ann Arbor Christian Reformed Church. Veena is the lead instructor at the Faber Piano Institute in Ann Arbor, and is well-known as a solo and collaborative performer and arranger. Jean---an avid recitalist and concert singer---has charmed audiences throughout the U.S., France, Austria, and his native Haiti. Their program will showcase repertoire from the Romantics to composers living today. Free will offering. The church is located at 1717 Broadway Street.

State Police investigate prisoner death at Cotton CF

A letter from behind bars:

At about 4:50 AM my friend John went to the guard and said he thought he was having a heart attack. He then laid down on the floor and the guard called health care, who came and got him. About 5:30 John came back from health care with some Tums and he apparently told his roommate they gave him some sort of shot. By 6:30 AM John had gone into what appears to be cardiac arrest. Guards and health care performed CPR until the ambulance arrived but it was too little too late. John died. He was only in his 30s and was supposed to go home this past July but they moved his parole date to January. Two State police detectives came in and I hope their investigation reveals the truth. My prayers are with his family. This is a truly horrible place to become ill, and even more so to die!

From the desk of Doug: Serving Prisoners: Where the joy is!

Working with prisoners probably doesn't sound like much fun. Yet, to hear Fr. Greg Boyle, that's where the joy is!

If you haven't made plans to hear him in person, there's still time.

I was listening to his speech to Notre Dame grads. He was there last spring to accept an award for the powerful work he is doing among



gang members. He couldn't resist the opportunity to challenge these young people, with a whole new and exciting life ahead of them. This was unlike other commencement addresses, however. He didn't encourage them to go to the moon, or to make their mark in science or industry.

Said Fr. Boyle: **...go where the joy is, which is at the margins, for if you stand at the margins, that's the only way they'll get erased, and you stand with the poor, and the powerless and the voiceless. You stand with those whose dignity has been denied, and you stand with those whose burdens are more than they can bear, and you will go from here and have this exquisite privilege once in a while to be able to stand with the easily despised and the readily left out, with the demonized so that the demonizing will stop, and with the disposable, so the day will come when we stop throwing people away.**

Amen and Amen!

If those words resonate with you, let's talk. In looking to the future, HFP needs people with hearts like that.

It's where the joy is!

From the Women at Huron Valley

Prisoners Advocating for workers at WHV Unusual twist

On Thursday, August 24, 2017, I personally witnessed one of our officers being ordered to stay past sixteen hours. This officer had worked first shift and second shift and at 2230, still had not been relieved of her shift so she could go home. Once her relief arrived, she was relegated to yard duty since there were no available yard officers. I spoke with her the next day and asked how late she'd had to work. "I worked 17 hours straight before I was able to get out of here," was her response. Isn't it illegal to work more than 16 hours at a time? Aren't employers required to give at least 8 hours between shifts? I understand the need to work more in cases of emergency but this is a regular occurrence.

These officers here at WHV are working sixteen plus hours daily on a regular basis and they are getting burned out. This affects us prisoners because the officers are short tempered, are too tired to properly manage the housing units they are assigned to, and occasionally they are falling asleep on the job. I don't blame them; they are completely exhausted and wiped out. My concern is not only for their safety (driving while exhausted, etc.) but for our safety as well.

Reflections on HFP relationship with women at WHV

Doug & Matt, I woke up today thinking about all you do for the women here at Huron Valley. I look around and see the changes that one letter to you has done. Yesterday I looked back to 2014, my first letter from you and to you. There was so much going on at that time...so, so much. I decided to keep going and look through the years we have been writing. The changes are small at first, but when you look at that span of three years they are HUGE! HFP has made its impact on our little society here in the most wonderful way. From our clothes, to cleaning supplies, to medication, to health care, food, segregation, one-on-one, the list just continues. But when you put it all together you really can see just how much we mean to HFP. We love you!
(And we love them!)

Shameful!

Michigan is home to the second largest population of juvenile lifers in the nation. Prior to 2016 there were 363 prisoners serving the draconian sentence. Seventy percent of them are people of color; a portrait of savage inequality. Since the 2012 U.S. Supreme Court ruling only 91 prisoners have been resentenced. Six prisoners died during the four year wait and never had the opportunity to be resentenced or given serious parole consideration.

Time Magazine

HFP: Breaking all records!

Contacts from prisoners, their families or loved ones, so far this year: 3,400 and climbing!

Annual totals for previous years:	2016: 2,728
	2015: 2,297
	2014: 2,007
	2013: 1,447

Monthly Activity report showing sharp increases!

Last year's monthly record high: 262

In 2017, contacts topped 400 three times:

May: 445
June: 473
August: 480

Monthly totals of email messages sent from HFP office to Michigan inmates: 400-500!

Total prisoners on our work list so far this year:
700+!

Music to our ears!

From a prisoner who sends HFP a \$7 check quarterly

I'm sorry that my donation is not larger. Right now, \$7.00 represents approximately 15% of my monthly provision. I support three ministries. I will continue to donate to HFP because the Lord has put it on my heart to do so.

From another---why we do what we do!

Thanks again for your time.

God bless you - please keep up the work helping prisoners - it makes a big difference in a prisoner's life when they know someone cares!

One more:

I am grateful that you are out there a voice for me and all prisoners whose voices are muffled by our incarceration. God bless you and all those who work with HFP. You just don't know how you are appreciated. I know there isn't much I can do to help, but I will continue to advocate for HFP support in here and among my dwindling friends and family. God bless you.

Donate To HFP Online
Humanityforprisoners.org