

December Double!

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For the first time in history, thanks to two generous grants, December contributions will be matched, dollar for dollar, up to a cap of \$50,000.00! As you consider your year-end gift, words from our financial consultant and our founder.

Here's what Dale says:

"I love my government, I just don't like feeding it more than I have to." I'm not sure where that quote came from, but I think it sums up the feelings of many people. As a Financial Advisor I'm blessed to have many clients who want to give back and support their local churches and/or charities. Your legislators have passed laws and inserted many rules in the tax code to encourage people to support organizations like HFP. To take advantage of this month's matching offer to the maximum, consult with your CPA, Financial Professional, or attorney. HFP performs a great service. Let's help them as best we can!

Dale Ringerwole, DC and Associates.



Here's what Doug says:

Go to www.humanityforprisoners.org, click on Videos, then click on Doug's year-end video.

Prisoner support of HFP increases

Every Michigan prison has a Prisoner Benefit Fund which receives money from prison vending machines, the prison store, and other sources. Most of this money goes toward projects and equipment that benefit prisoners. But, the committee, made up of prisoners and staff members, may also recommend donations to charitable organizations. Prisoners also donate to HFP on an individual basis, and that is a huge sacrifice because inmate wages may be as low as 75 cents a day! Yet, here are the impressive figures:

In 2016 we received \$1,294 from 1 PBF and 4 individuals

In 2017 we received \$1,077 from 2 PBFs and 8 individuals

In 2018 we received \$1,761 from 3 PBFs and 16 individuals

GR Attorney joins HFP team!

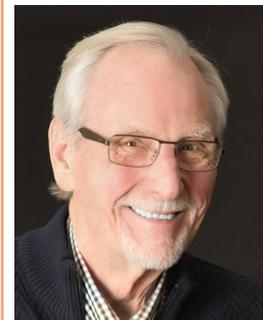
Humanity for Prisoners is pleased to announce the addition of Brent Geers to our advisory committee. Geers, a Grand Rapids lawyer, specializes in helping people empower those they trust and provide for those they love. Brent has been an attorney since 2012, working with individuals and families to marshal their time, talent, and treasure for the benefit of their children, family, and community. He was named one of just 9 lawyers in the area they use, trust and recommend in a poll taken by the website Grand Rapids Kids. We're proud to welcome him aboard!



From the desk of Doug: 2018

A very good year!

2018 was a significant year in the growth and history of HFP!



It was the year that:

- We brought Kit Cummins and his Power of Peace Program to

Western Michigan Christian High School

- We greatly improved our Board of Directors with the appointments of Rev. Rodney Gulley, Dr. Michelle Loyd-Paige and Dr. K. Aaron Van Oosterhout,
- We produced new videos to tell our story
- We launched a new podcast project
- We added Grand Rapids attorney Brent Geers to our team
- We introduced a new logo, masthead and literature
- We brought Sister Helen Prejean to Grand Haven for a public appearance
- We made an important change in our staff with the addition of Susie Greenbauer!

This was also the year that we saw an amazing increase in our work load, as our team responded to 500-600 contacts per month for the first time in history.

It was the year that support of our work from behind bars reached new heights, both from Prisoner Benefit Fund contributions from several facilities, as well as gifts and contributions from individual Michigan inmates.

2018 was the year that DPZ Technology offered to publish a new book featuring 100 of our most famous blogs.

And, for the first time in history, we were so financially stable that we never had to delay pay checks!

What a year! And God willing, the best is yet to come!

HFP Happenings!



West Michigan Restorative Justice Conference

Sponsored by students of the Calvin Prison Initiative at Handlon Correctional Facility in Ionia, Calvin College recently held the 2nd Annual West Michigan Restorative Justice Conference. The all-day event was held on October 13 in the college's Fine Arts Center. HFP was proud to have a manned booth on location.

Getting to know you



A team from HFP recently visited Lansing to meet with the Michigan Department of Corrections. We were granted a one-hour sit-down session on October 22 with Kyle Kaminski, the department's Legislative Liaison, who is also in charge of Reentry Administration. (L-R, Matt Tjapkes, Russ Bloem, Kyle Kaminski, Susie Greenbauer, Holly Honig-Josephson, Doug Tjapkes)



Sister Helen Prejean, described by HFP President Doug Tjapkes as "a national hero and a national treasure," made a personal appearance in Grand Haven on October 23 to raise funds for our daily operations. To hear the entire presentation, click on VIDEOS at the HFP website.

Good news and bad news from Lakeland CF in Coldwater

First the bad news

Bill writes:

Growers Row is dead. Growing produce for the local community has been discontinued by the administration. So far in 2018 we have produced over 8 tons of produce. I don't think there's a better way to gain acceptance than to go straight from prison to helping the community. Although we get paid the scraps that we get, we bust our asses growing tons of food. And everything is done without the use of any motorized equipment. All the digging and cultivating is hand done. From planting, to weeding, cultivating, and harvesting...all done by man power, not machines. And we only have 6 guys that maintain a one-acre garden, plus a greenhouse and a cold frame. It's a shame to stop it.

(HFP Contacted Legislative Liaison Kyle Kaminski re the program)
The instructor retired, so the formal program was wound down as horticulture isn't a high demand employment field. The facility has indicated they intend to still support growing there, but not as a vocational class. We left the equipment down there to support their volunteer efforts.

The good news

Scott writes:

Just want to send out my gratitude and thanks to those who helped correct the HIPAA conflict with the way staff previously handed out medical supplies. You can tell by the wording of my letter that the problem has been immediately corrected thanks to you. Medical supplies are now given to prisoners discreetly in a separate room, then placed into a new brown paper bag. From all of us at Lakeland Correctional Facility, thanks to all of you for your wonderful assistance.