

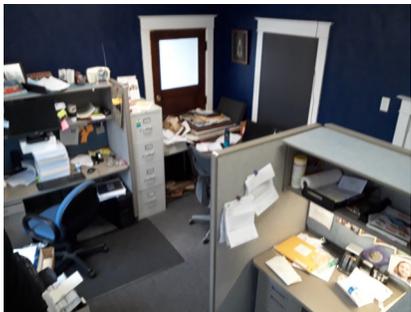
New Digs!

Thanks to the generosity of many special people, HFP moves to Cleveland Street in Spring Lake, MI



Board Chairman Russ Bloem signs land contract for new office condo

The Old and The New



HFP's former cramped office space and HFP's new bright and spacious facility

Open House dates to be announced soon!

HFP Unball!

We hope you can't be there!

You are cordially invited to stay home in your jammies and NOT attend the Second Annual HFP Unball!

This is a non-event designed for busy people with little time for events and who prefer to stay home with their families while supporting the life-changing work of Humanity for Prisoners.

You don't have to buy a dress or rent a tuxedo. You don't have to do your hair or makeup. You don't have to get a sitter. Your donation WILL NOT be used to rent a hall, pay a caterer, or hire entertainment.

Your donation WILL help prisoners find estranged family members, obtain critical legal documents, get urgently needed medical care, and prepare to return to society.

Tickets are \$50 each

Sponsor a table for \$100 to include your friends and family

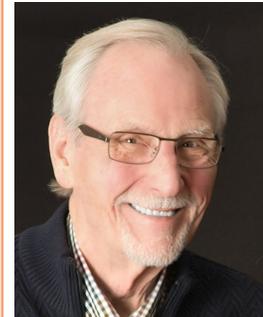
No donation is too large!

Please mail your check to PO Box 687, Grand Haven, MI 49417 to cover the number of people NOT attending (plus any additional costs you would have incurred to attend) by April 15.

We had so much fun last year, we decided not to gather again!

From the desk of Doug: And the greatest is love

Fr. Greg Boyle was testifying



as a "gang expert" in a death penalty hearing. His comments, indicating that the prisoner was mentally ill

and not worthy of execution, deeply frustrated the Prosecutor.

Said the irritated Prosecutor: **You can't say evil, can you?**

"If I said 'evil,' I'd have to deny everything I know to be true about how complex human beings are. I'd have to embrace the least sophisticated take on crime and its roots to say that. So I can't."

Full of disgust, the Prosecutor asked: **You preach on Sunday?**

"Yes."

He laughs, slams down his hand on the edge of the jury box: **If you don't preach evil, what DO you preach on?**

"Love?"

And that's it, pure and simple. That's why we do what we do here at HFP. That's why prisoners are now contacting us by the hundreds. That's why we're breaking all records. That's why the word is spreading like wildfire behind bars. That's why our team members promptly respond 7 days a week.

Says Fr Boyle: **The original covenantal relationship in the Hebrew Bible went like this: "As I have loved you, so must you have a special, preferential, favored love for the widow, orphan and stranger." God knows that these folks know what it's like to be cut off.**

That includes people behind bars.

Just like Fr. Boyle, we preach love: Action with compassion.

HFP Yarn Program gets early start in 2019

HFP Board Member Judy VanderArk and her husband Pete recently picked up 725 pounds of yarn from a carpet factory. The company, which prefers to remain anonymous, donates unused spools of yarn to HFP for use by prisoners. In this project, thousands of pounds of yarn are collected each year by a team of volunteers, and delivered to various Michigan prisons where inmates knit and crochet items



for charity. This particular batch was delivered to Parnall Correctional Facility and Cooper Street Correctional



Facility, both in Jackson. Pete and Judy have quietly coordinated this exceptional program for years.

HFP Supports Pilot Program at MCF

Humanity for Prisoners has agreed to partner with the National Lifers of America chapter at Muskegon Correctional Facility on a pilot project that has a goal of advancing education and rehabilitation behind bars. According to the NLA, the local chapter purchases educational literature from various publishers and makes it available to the population. As students complete assignments, NLA committee members will check the work and record the results. While these are not official classes, completion still results in a certificate or diploma. Inmate Bruce Michaels, who chairs the Education Committee, explains that The Parole Board consistently asks how parole candidates have used their time, but many claim that they cannot get into classes. It is the committee's hope, he says, that these independent studies might alleviate the programming disparity. Michaels said he teaches classes 4-5 nights a week, and there is always a list of potential students wanting to participate in the program.

HFP supports ACLU Campaign for Smart Justice

In a recent telephone conference, HFP President Doug Tjapkes assured Rodd Monts of our support for this important campaign. Monts, Michigan coordinator for the project, explains: *The goal of this campaign is to reduce mass incarceration by 50 percent and eliminate racial disparities in the criminal legal system. One of the strategies is building a network of volunteers from churches and community groups across Michigan to talk with legislators, hold public events and do grassroots advocacy.*



HFP Wish List

As we celebrate a new chapter in HFP's history with a new building, we also have new needs! HFP is creating two volunteer workstations, and we need two new computers to make this happen. The total cost is \$2,819.24. If you are interested in helping us fill this need, please call 616.935.0075 or email Matt at matt@humanityforprisoners.org.

Handlon Book Club reviews Doug's book

Twenty copies of Doug's new book, "Humanity for Prisoners?," were recently delivered to the Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility in Ionia. Doug had met with members of the Handlon Book Club some years ago to review his earlier book, "Sweet Freedom." Club coordinator Mark Hartman reports that the guys are currently reading the new book, and are hoping that a personal visit with the author can once again be arranged.

When Time Counts!

Jim had been without his heart medicine for three days when he placed his call to HFP from a prison telephone station. He was in a panic. Our team responded in haste, as we do with all crisis issues. Later came this email message: *I got my medications and I feel excellent!!! There are so many problems with the system until I am forced somewhat to sympathize, but some things you can't ignore. Thank you so very much!*

I'm so proud of you and your organization. Tell your staff that the good work that they are doing is giving hope and courage to us who are daily dining on misery, abandonment, regret, and hopelessness. Thank you all for being a light in the darkness.

- words of an HFP client

Donate to HFP online: Humanityforprisoners.org