

NOT WELCOME!

HFP

Humanity
for Prisoners

Action with Compassion

Unball

2022

Why HFP's spring fund raiser is so popular

You don't have to

Buy a dress or a tux

Make a hair appointment

Hire a baby-sitter

Spend one more night away from family.

We don't have to

Rent an expensive venue

Hire an expensive speaker

Retain an expensive caterer.

So, again this year, we ask that you make your reservation for this welcome event, and then spend the evening at home with family and friends. Tickets are just \$75.00 each, or you can sponsor a table for \$500.00. HFP will not have to spend a penny on frivolous expenses. Instead, your dollars will help our team

respond to a record number of requests for –

Dealing with medical issues

Finding a missing loved one

Obtaining critical documents

Preparing commutation applications

Providing assistance with misc. personal issues!

Make your reservations online at www.humanityforprisoners.org

Or send them to our office at PO Box 687, Grand Haven, MI 49417

Thanks for not coming!

Back on the air!

HFP launches new podcast series: Voices of Humanity

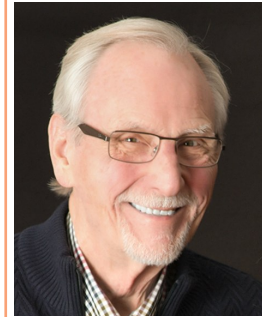
HFP President Matt Tjapkes and Founder Doug Tjapkes, who both worked in the broadcast industry before their work at HFP, return to microphones to discuss all things HFP - our history, our current work, our staff and board of directors - while also looking at criminal justice issues across the state. The podcast will have new episodes every two weeks that will be posted on our website: humanityforprisoners.org/podcasts. We invite you to tune in. We invite your comments.

From the desk of Doug:

Easter topics--- Familiar in our office

The story of Easter features all kinds of things that we

discuss here in the HFP office: capital punishment, wrongful conviction, and yes, clemency. Michigan



does not have **capital punishment** for state crimes, but we do have life without parole which is, in effect, a death sentence. Some inmates will argue that it's even worse than just "getting it over with." The Romans chose a particularly cruel method of putting people to death. "Old Sparky," famous electric chair used in USA executions for years, paled in comparison to that old, rugged cross.

Wrongful conviction is something we encounter on a regular basis. It's what actually led to the formation of HFP. Governor Pontius Pilate, who presided over the trial of Jesus, listened to all the charges against the Son of God. His conclusion: "I find no guilt in this man." He allowed the execution anyway.

Then there was the example of **clemency** granted...a prize sought after by many prisoners. That old rascal Dismas, who lived a whole life as a crook, guilty as sin and completely deserving of execution, sees the unfairness of Jesus' crucifixion as he hangs on the cross next to him. "Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom," he pleads. And Jesus, who had (and has) a heart for prisoners, warmly responds: "I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise."

What an Easter message!
For all of us!

Grant received!

Grand Haven Area Community Foundation supports HFP

Humanity for Prisoners has received a \$10,000 Technical Assistance Grant from the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation! We'll be using the funds to create a new client database system through CaseBuddy by Case-Worthy - A scaled case management solution ideal for small to mid-sized organizations. Humanity for Prisoners has experienced significant growth in the size of its client base and the number of requests received for help.

"This database system will allow us to more carefully track our clients, helping us better address their needs as individuals," said Humanity for Prisoners President/CEO Matt Tjapkes.

"The GHACF's Technical Assistance Fund is designed to assist for-impact partners in their efforts to build their internal capacity and effectiveness. We look forward to celebrating Humanity for Prisoners continued success following their acquisition and implementation of Casebuddy," added Hadley Streng, GHACF President.



Grand Haven Area
community foundation



Meet Taz

HFP Volunteer Coordinator Melissa reports that Taz gives us an hour a week, helping Michigan prisoners find missing loved ones.

My name is Tazkira, and I am currently a freshman at Michigan State University studying social work. I had first learned about Humanity for Prisoners from a panel that I attended on campus where I met Mr. Matt Tjapkes. After hearing about the organization's mission, I was eager to become a volunteer. I thoroughly enjoy volunteering for Humanity for Prisoners because of the connections I help to establish with those who are imprisoned and their loved ones.

Tazkira (Taz) Amin

MI prisoner miscellany

Prisoner gratitude --- *I would like to thank you all @ Humanity for Prisoners for your assistance with getting evaluated fairly & getting the mental health care I deserved and needed as a human being. I was properly diagnosed and I am being treated for clinical depression. I was in a dark place 4 real.*

Prisoner thanks --- When 20 dog trainers signed a letter to HFP complaining that their pay was being cut from 11 cents an hour to 6 cents an hour, Founder Doug Tjapkes posted a protest on the HFP blog site, then persuaded Detroit Free Press writer Paul Egan to print a feature story on the topic. The response:

Doug, we here at DAWGZ ADAPT, sincerely want to thank you for jumping on our cause. It's hard to believe that with all that comes along with these dog programs throughout the state that they would do something like this. Within the last 3-4 years we've had 370 dogs come through this program that we've loved, cared for and trained. This is what makes our day, it's what we love to do, it's our second chance, so thank you again for all of your help.

Prisoner generosity --- 113 prisoners sent financial contributions to HFP in 2021, totaling over \$23,000! In addition, HFP received Prisoner Benefit Funds gifts from four Michigan facilities!

"Prison is designed to separate, isolate, and alienate you from everyone and everything. You're not allowed to do so much as touch your spouse, your parents, your children. The system does everything within its power to sever any physical or emotional links you have to anyone in the outside world. They want your children to grow up without ever knowing you. They want your spouse to forget your face and start a new life. They want you to sit alone, grieving, in a concrete box, unable even to say your last farewell at a parent's funeral."

— Damien Echols, Life After Death



Join us!

As things begin to open again as the COVID numbers subside, it's time to open the HFP office up to volunteers. We are currently seeking individuals who are willing to come into the office, answer the phones, and perform light office duties (scanning, organizing, etc). If you are able to offer at least 3 hours, one day a week, please contact our volunteer director Melissa at our office - 616.935.0075 or melissa@humanityforprisoners.org.