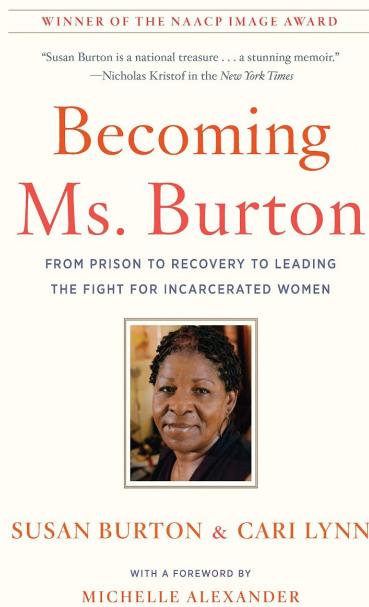


Meet and Greet!



Author and Activist Susan Burton comes to Grand Haven!

Humanity for Prisoners is proud to announce the return of our in-person speaker series next month. Susan Burton, author of *Becoming Ms. Burton: From Prison to Recovery to Leading the Fight for Incarcerated Women*, will be our guest speaker Tuesday, October 13, 7 PM, at the Lakeshore Middle School, 900 Cutler Street, Grand Haven. Advance tickets are \$25 or \$15 for students, and are available on the HFP website at humanityforprisoners.org or at The Bookman (715 Washington Ave, Grand Haven). Tickets will be sold for \$30 at the door.

You can be a sponsor!

Your sponsorship will ensure all costs are covered so 100% of ticket proceeds will support the good work of HFP. We would love to include your name on our sponsorship roster, although anonymous sponsorships are also welcome. Sponsorship levels include a meet-and-greet dinner reception with Ms. Burton and preferential seating at the lecture:

\$5000+	Platinum – 8 VIP tickets
\$1000-\$4999	Gold – 6 VIP tickets
\$500-\$999	Silver – 4 VIP tickets
\$250-\$499	Bronze - 2 VIP tickets
\$100-\$249	Copper – 1 VIP ticket

We remember Ruth

With sadness we report the passing of HFP volunteer Ruth Mulder of Spring Lake. Cancer claimed the life of our good friend on July 24. She was 80. After retiring as secretary of Grand Haven's Second Christian Reformed Church, Ruth chose to volunteer in our office. She loved HFP, and the team loved her!

Our sincere condolences to her husband Jim, as well as the kids and grandkids.

The memorial service was held on August 3 at Second CRC.



From the desk of Doug:

They'll know us by our---- love?

How we loved to sing the contemporary piece They'll Know We Are Christians when it was published by a Catholic priest back in the 60's. The words, "They'll

know we are Christians by our love," he said, came from the way non-believers looked at members of the early church. They would say, "Behold, how they love one another."

I wonder how people see us these days.

I'm not talking about the alleged evangelicals who storm the capitol or torch abortion clinics in the name of Jesus. I'm talking about you and me, our friends and neighbors, decent people who go to church on Sunday, but some of whom prefer to keep prisoners behind bars. There are pious claims of favoring rehabilitation and restoration, yet when there's word that an inmate is getting paroled, or that a juvenile lifer is getting resentenced, the result is often tunnel vision, a focus only on the victim. Once a thug, always a thug.

Unlike many of us in the church, Jesus was so kind to criminals. To the prostitute, he said, "I don't condemn you." To the hardened criminal dying on a cross next to him, he said "Today you'll be with me in paradise."

Jesus never says to the poor, "Come find the church," but he says to those of us in the church, "Go into the world and find the poor, hungry, homeless and imprisoned."

Tony Compalo



Prices go up, wages remain stagnant

No one can remember when wages were increased for Michigan prisoners who have jobs. But everyone is complaining about how store prices keep going up. Words from an HFP client:

"Keefe Corporation, the sole vendor for all of our food and cosmetic items, went crazy raising prices in our store. Ramen Noodles, the little square soups, for example, are now 44 cents and a 3oz bag of instant coffee is \$5.40! Generic nachos jumped nearly 55% to nearly four dollars. And that's nothing to the over 100% markup on the bottle of mayo which is over six bucks now. Now a cup of coffee with French vanilla creamer is so cost prohibitive for guys earning 84 cents/day as janitors it might as well be shopping at Starbucks . . . if they had a store on the moon. I know I'm done with this luxury, as are a bunch of my other friends."

Former HFP director wins national award!

A former HFP board member won recognition by a national Christian leadership conference.

Michelle Loyd-Paige, sociology professor and executive associate to the president for diversity and inclusion at Calvin University recently was awarded the Inspire 2022 Dante Venegas Award in recognition of her leadership at the university. Inspire 2022, a national conference for Christian Reformed Church leaders and volunteers, offers the Dante Venegas award as the church's Office of Race Relations' method for recognizing distinguished leadership in diversity and racial justice. Loyd-Paige and Sheila Holmes, a pastor from New Jersey, are the only 2022 awardees in North America. Our congratulations!



Highest compliment we could receive!

Humanity for Prisoners has received a check for \$2,500 from persons incarcerated at the Lakeland Correctional Facility in Coldwater. Acting Facility Manager Christy Boden said the gift comes from the facility's Prisoner Benefit Fund. The funds are supplied mainly by the prison store and vending machines, and usually are designated for the benefit of prisoners, such as microwave ovens and exercise equipment. Inmates may also contribute to charitable organizations. In her note accompanying the check, Ms. Boden said, "Again, Thank You for all the great work you do!"

Compliments, typical

Parolee #1, whom we had helped with medical matters

"I am writing to thank you for your services over the years. I got my parole and I was released on August second, Humanity for Prisoners has helped me with healthcare issues and preparing for parole during COVID. Thank you!"

Parolee #2, whom we have helped in obtaining documents

"Thanks for helping me along this journey. It was really nice to see there's still compassionate people left in this world! After 19 months all the charges against me are finally getting dismissed. What a story---innocent man fighting for his freedom, forced into representing himself, finally won! On Monday it became official, and I have been released."

And from an HFP Volunteer:

"I've always been a supporter of this amazing small but mighty organization, but since going into the office and getting to know the staff I've grown even more dedicated to their mission. To me they are walking the talk of Jesus and being true disciples by helping 'the least of these' with care, compassion and without judgment."

On sitting with the broken

I'm not interested in whether you've stood with the great. I'm interested in whether you've sat with the broken.

The Age of Enlightenment

Donate today at
Humanityforprisoners.org