

Hope Beyond the Bars 2020 Year End Ministry Report

Hope Beyond the Bars is coming to the end of its first year having evolved into a wonderful ministry of Christian fellowship and support. COVID changed the way we were able to operate but it gave us an important understanding of the magnitude of our written correspondence and relationship with the inmates participating in our program.

Our ministry is active in three Virginia prisons, with at least two participants in each facility. All these men are reporting more problems with lack of food and hygiene products since the COVID lockdowns began. Most inmates are not able to work or attend classes, both of which provide a meager income of about \$20 a month. Without this income our artists are struggling to supplement their meals, which are deficient in quantity, quality, and variety. Lack of good nutrition leads to physical, mental, and behavioral problems such as depression, anxiety, lethargy, and aggression just to name a few.

It is through our increased correspondence and mentorship that these issues have come to light. Hope Beyond the Bars currently makes a \$25 quarterly donation to each of our participants. I am receiving emails about how our artists are utilizing the funds they receive to provide food, soap, and stamps for other inmates less fortunate than they are.

Figures & Finances from 2020

- Grown from 2 participants in 2019 to 9 participants at the close of 2020
- Total Income \$6,478.29: grants of \$3,875.00 & contributions of \$2,603.29
- Total Expenses \$6,024.66
 - donations to participants \$2,268.96
 - Inmate communication costs \$238.80
 - Fees for inmate donations \$165.80
 - Printing & Publishing \$1,196.53
 - Communications & Marketing \$1,364.97
 - Administration \$315.29
 - Bank charges \$3.00
 - Ministry \$77.92
 - Postage & Shipping \$347.10
 - Other \$46.29
- Ending balance \$1,216.57 (includes ending balance of \$762.94 from 2019)
Will be used to expand our ministry in the 1st quarter of 2021 – details below

Hope Beyond the Bars is going into this new year with a broader view of our ministry. We will be providing more devotional materials throughout the coming year, open enrollment to new artists and expand our portfolio. To draw more and new interest in our ministry, we invite artists to submit any type of art they feel led to create and can ship.

We are working on a Bible study format that ministry participants can choose to take part in rather than submitting works of art. Our main goal is to get and keep men in the Word and we feel this is an excellent alternative for those who are not inspired to create art, or their artistic abilities do not translate into something appropriate for our ministry needs.

The Church Administrators office will serve as a mini gallery to display Hope Beyond the Bars artwork available for our donors to choose from. We plan to travel with our gallery display to conferences and retreats to share our ministry as soon as it is safe to do so.