

2018-2019 ANNUAL REPORT

By coming forward and sharing
your story, you don't know the
countless lives you change.
~ Mariska Hargitay

morefamousquotes.com

CITIZENS FOR PRISON REFORM

Citizens for Prison Reform (CPR) is a grass-roots, family-led initiative that engages, educates, and empowers those affected by crime and punishment to advance their constitutional, civil and human rights. It is an organization of prisoners' loved ones and concerned citizens. It assists prisoners' families and friends in navigating the corrections system. It was started in 2011 by family members of a 15 year old boy who was sentenced to prison. CPR holds monthly educational and support meetings in Lansing on the third Saturday of each month. It puts on an annual Legislative Education Day which brings together family members, friends, advocates, and Michigan Legislators. It is operated entirely by volunteers and is currently funded by private donations and small grants. CPR became a nonprofit organization with 501(c)(3) status in September of 2012. All contributions are tax deductible.

CPR'S SOLITARY CONFINEMENT CELL

CPR has created a mock-up of a solitary confinement cell. It displays the cell in the Capitol on Legislative Education Day and at other community events. The cell shows the limited amount of space and the isolation a person experiences when placed in segregation. CPR would like to thank Al Christian for his continued maintenance on the cell so it can be displayed.



2018 ANNUAL MEETING

CPR held its Annual Meeting in the evening with pizza and showing of "Faces of Mass Incarceration" documentary, which was filmed at the International Prisoner Family Conference in 2016. Some of our Michigan prisoner families were in the film. Q & A was held following the documentary screening. CPR displayed its mock segregation cell. Outreach was done prior to this event, with the assistance of grant funding from University Lutheran Church, Endowment Fund.



"Faces of Mass Incarceration"
International Prisoner Family Conference

At the October 2018 Annual Meeting, Three new Board Members were elected to serve a 3 year term; Mark Brown, Martha Simkins, and Rich Griffin. Sandra Girard, Aaron Kinzel and Mora Wilkevicz were elected to serve three year terms. Others serving on the Board during 2018-19 were Peggy Christian, Monica Jahner, Lois Pullano, Sherrie Guess, Pete Letkemann, Rich Rienstra and Rita Kerwin.

Lois Pullano was elected as President, Aaron Kinzel as Vice President, Mora Wilkevicz as Secretary, and Peggy Christian as Treasurer. The Executive Board includes the president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, Chair of the Development Committee and Community Outreach Committee. The Executive Board reports to the full Board. Thanks to all for their work on behalf of CPR.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

See last page for financial. Donations may be made online at www.micpr.org or by mail. A big thanks to all who have donated.

MONTHLY PROGRAMS 2018-19

Thanks to all the people who gave their time to present information and ideas at CPR's Monthly Meetings.

October, 2018 CPR provided pizza and showed the "Faces of Mass Incarceration" documentary. Outreach was done prior to the event, which was held at the Lansing Media Center.

November, 2018 Roxanna Hartline, Director of the EXIT Program – presented on the EXIT program which assists inmates in the jail in receiving day programming to assist in all aspects of preparing them for being in the community, including job training, life skills, parenting classes, etc.

December, 2018 No meeting was held due to the Holidays.

January, 2019 Canceled due to bad weather.

February, 2019 Kirsten Eidenbach, ATLAS Justice, Arizona shared her work addressing prison survivor's trauma and methods of healing.

March, 2019 Sharing Circle – No speaker Families shared their current struggles and concerns and connected with one another.

April, 2019 Kenneth Faiver, Retired Former MDOC Associate Director of Health Care 1975-1990 and Chief Medical Coordinator for Puerto Rico Prison System 1990-1993.



May, 29 2019 – CPR's 8th Annual Legislative Education Day. Legislative Sponsors and Co-Sponsors for the event were **Rep. David LaGrand, Sen. Stephanie Chang and Sen. Peter Lucido**. Cindy Shank, Keynote Speaker, was featured "The Sentence" and HBO Documentary. Families met with Legislators and staff in the afternoon to discuss CPR's Priorities and educated them on the need for change.



June and July 2019

Families spent time sharing information, supporting each other and discussing how families can get more involved in educating their legislators.

August, 2019 Aaron Kinzel presented on the "Clean Slate" Campaign, representing Safe & Just MI. These bills would allow specific records to be expunged.

September, 2019 Jennifer Baker, Michigan Protection and Advocacy (MPAS) presented on the current projects MPAS is working on inside the prisons including wheelchair accessibility, services for the blind and deaf, and mental health services. Prisoners with concerns about disability rights can contact MPAS at their Lansing office location.

Grand Rapids and Detroit Events

CPR held meetings in Grand Rapids and Detroit, where we filmed families stories for our Michigan documentary "Locked Out: The Impact of Prison on Families".

CPR showed the documentary Faces of Mass Incarceration. Thank you to Carol Rienstra and Tiffany Walker for organizing these events in both cities.

Programs on CPR's Website

Video programs of several of the meetings can be viewed on the CPR website, www.micpr.org

2018-19 CPR PRIORITIES

Each year CPR focuses on a few issues that are important to prisoners' families. The 2018-19 priorities center on Making Family Support a Priority.

Establish a formal MDOC

Family Advisory Board –SB 195

Sponsors: Rep. Stephanie Chang, and Sen. Lucido.

- A pilot Family Advisory Board currently works with MDOC Administration to:
- Suggest revisions to MDOC's Family Information Packet;
- Provide ways to improve family visitation statewide;
- Present concerns affecting families with incarcerated loved ones; and
- Address barriers to families supporting their loved ones.

Limit solitary confinement to 15 days at a time and only for cases of a serious disciplinary violation

- Colorado, which adopted this policy in 2017, has seen a reduction of assaults, forced cell entries, and the use of heavy restraints decline by 40 percent. The results of these reforms have been positive for both staff and prisoners.
- Research has shown that housing someone in a cell the size of a parking space for 22 or more hours per day for extended periods of time

damages them both mentally and physically. Since most people who go to prison — 97 percent — return to their community, that means we were releasing people back into their communities in worse shape than when they arrived. (CO. Dept. of Corrections)

Remove restrictions on visits as punishment for misconducts

- Administrative Rules allow the MDOC Director to restrict visits as a form of punishment. Visitor restrictions for misconduct unrelated to a visit is not supporting family reunification. *Administrative Rule (R. 791.6609 Rule 609 (11) (d) and R. 791.6614 Rule 614 (d))*
- Numerous studies show that family and community support is critical to success in prison and upon reentry. Taking visits for misconduct unrelated to visits is counterproductive. Denying visits punishes innocent children, families and community mentors and impedes reentry.

INTERNATIONAL PRISONER'S FAMILY CONFERENCE



CPR sent Sandra Girard and Aaron Kinzel to represent it at the 11th annual conference held in Dallas, Texas. Aaron Kinzel presented at a breakout session at the conference.

CPR FACEBOOK PAGE

CPR's Facebook page has information about CPR activities and meetings, notices of related events held by other organizations and corrections and

criminal justice news stories from around the country. CPR has 6,479 likes currently. The week of Oct. 4-10th, it had 4,635 post reach and 31 page likes. A huge thank you to Sandy Tuinstra, for managing CPR's Facebook page.

WEBSITE - WWW.MICPR.ORG

CPR's website has information about meetings, links to related web sites and organizations, forms and documents, reentry resources, and a Resource Manual for Prisoner Families. Over the last 30 days, there were 48 unique visitors and 72 page views.

Thanks to grants from the University Lutheran Church of East Lansing, videos of CPR's monthly programs are also available on the website.

EMAIL NOTIFICATIONS

Notices about CPR's meetings and other state-wide events are sent monthly via MailChimp. At the end of October 984 people were on CPR's e-mail list. If you do not currently receive them go to <http://www.micpr.org> and sign up. You will receive an e-mail to return for verification. Thanks to volunteers Jeremy Leik and Tiffany Walker for managing MailChimp.

CPR WELCOMES MICHELLE WEEMHOF

Michelle Weemhof has been working with CPR on strategic planning, grant writing and board planning. It is exciting to have Michelle's expertise.



CPR NEWSLETTER

Frank Dennis is currently publishing a monthly newsletter under CPR. The newsletter can be obtained on our website, or emailing Frank at fdennis805@gmail.com It is released at the end of each month.

FAMILY ADVISORY BOARD

CPR sponsors the Family Participation Program which created the Family Advisory Board. The FAB meets every three months with MDOC administrators to present the family perspective and to advocate for changes in policies affecting family inclusion and reunification during and after incarceration.



Photo: Partial Family Advisory Board

CPR's FUNDRAISER

CPR had a first fundraiser in the Howell community, at Aubrey's. Those who attended had a great time. We thank all of those individuals who came throughout the day to contribute to CPR.



CPR SINCERELY THANKS:

The University Lutheran Church for the generous funding they granted us through the **Endowment Fund and Benevolence Fund**. These grants have enabled us to do outreach, and allow us to create a documentary of Michigan prisoner family's stories.

The **Unitarian Universalist Church of Greater Lansing** for their plate collection.

The **Calvary Lutheran Church** of Lansing for sharing its space with CPR for its monthly meetings!

Rep. David LaGrand, for serving as the Legislative Sponsor of CPR's 8th Annual Legislative Day and **Sen. Stephanie Chang, Sen. Peter Lucido** for Co-sponsoring!

CPR thanks all of those organizations who Co-sponsored the event:

Michigan League for Public Policy, American Friends Service Committee, Safe & Just Michigan, Church of the Servant Prisoners In Christ, Nation Outside, Black Lives Matter, Michigan Citizens for Justice, Woodside Church-Flint, ACLU Michigan, Unitarian Universalist Church of Greater Lansing Social Action Committee, ARRO, Michigan Council on Crime and Delinquency, Northwest Initiative, Michigan Protection & Advocacy Services, Detroit Justice Center, International Prisoner's Family Conference, Families Against Mandatory Minimums, MI-CEMI, Omnitech, Healing Arts Center for Massage & Wellness and Just Leadership, USA. We thank all who assisted us in making this a successful day.

MICHIGAN COLLABORATIVE TO END MASS INCARCERATION

MI-CEMI is a collaboration of Michigan's leading criminal justice system reform organizations. It is an initiative to safely reduce our jail and prison populations. Find more information on MI-CEMI at www.michigancollaborative.org

CPR's 8th ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION DAY – MAY 29, 2019



NATION OUTSIDE

CPR supports Nation Outside, an organization of formerly incarcerated individuals, family members, and allies committed to amplifying the voices of the formerly incarcerated. Go to <http://miccd.org/nationoutside> to join.



CPR's income is primarily from donations by individuals, University Lutheran Church grants, Unitarian Universalist Church of Greater Lansing and supporters of Legislative Education Day.

CPR is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Donations to it are tax-deductible as allowed by law. Donations may be made online at www.micpr.org or by mail to P.O. Box 80414, Lansing, MI 48908. Receipts for donations are sent out in early January of the year following the donation.

**CITIZENS FOR PRISON REFORM
BALANCE SHEET
AS OF 09/30/19**

ASSETS:

Checking	\$6143.51
Deposits for next year	<u>\$500.00</u>

TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$6643.51</u>
---------------------	-------------------------

CURRENT LIABILITIES:

Pruess Family Fund	<u>\$222.08</u>
--------------------	-----------------

TOTAL LIABILITIES:	<u>\$222.08</u>
---------------------------	------------------------

EQUITY:

Net Assets	\$3798.73
Net Increase (decrease) assets	\$2622.70

TOTAL EQUITY	<u>\$6421.43</u>
---------------------	-------------------------

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	<u>\$6643.51</u>
-------------------------------------	-------------------------