

2016-2017 ANNUAL REPORT



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's 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.



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.

2016 ANNUAL MEETING

CPR held its Annual Meeting in the evening with a dinner and program at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Greater Lansing. Sixty-four people attended. CPR displayed its mock segregation cell. Judge Deborah Thomas of the Wayne County Circuit Court spoke about her efforts to incorporate restorative justice principles in her criminal docket. Greta Mchaney-Trice, Executive Director of Resolution Services Center of Central Michigan, spoke about the Center's Restorative Justice School Program and its other services.



At the October 2016 Annual Meeting Richard Rienstra, Rita Kerwin, and Sherrie Guess were reelected to three-year terms as Board Members. New Board Member Lisa Biggs was also elected to a three-year term. Others serving on the Board during 2016-17 were Peggy Christian, Monica Jahner, Lois Pullano, Pete Letkemann, Patricia Lowe, Dee Florence, Penny Preuss, June Walker, Mora Wilkevicz, Sandra Girard.

Sandra Girard was reelected as President, Pete Letkemann as Vice President, Mora Wilkevicz as Secretary, and Peggy Christian as Treasurer. The Executive Board includes the president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer and Lois Pullano and Sherrie Guess, the Chairs of the Program and Public Relations Committees. The Executive Board reports to the full Board. Thanks to all for their work on behalf of CPR.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

See separate financial report. Donations may be made online at www.micpr.org or by mail. Donations are tax deductible. A big thanks to all who have donated.

MONTHLY PROGRAMS 2016-17

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

October 15, 2016 We started out the year with a great program, "Do We Need Restorative Justice?" **Judge Deborah Thomas** of the Wayne County Circuit Court spoke about her efforts to incorporate restorative justice principles in her criminal docket.

Greta Mchaney-Trice, Executive Director of Resolution Services Center of Central Michigan, spoke about the Center's Restorative Justice School Program. She also discussed the Center's other services to groups and individuals, including families and youth. The Center teaches how to resolve conflict through a variety of methods that include mediation, facilitation, restorative practices, and training. **November 19, 2016** **The Center for Michigan** conducted a Town-Hall style meeting with CPR attendees. It is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, nonpartisan organization. The Center's work can be described in only three verbs – engage, inform and achieve – which work together to make up a dynamic model of social and political change. The Center asked the Michigan public about their trust in state government. During 2016, The Center conducted such meetings throughout the state. The resulting report, "Fractured Trust: Lost faith in state government and how to restore it," was published March 21, 2017 and can be downloaded at <http://thecenterformichigan.net/>

December 10, 2016 Sandra Girard presented information on the work of Michigan Collaboration to End Mass Incarceration (MI-CEMI). She also shared information on Nation Outside, a new organization to empower and give a voice to returning citizens in our communities

January 21, 2017 CPR screened the film, "Burning Bridges," a 35 minute documentary about the arson of an historic wooden covered bridge in Bucks County, Pennsylvania. It covers the eventual apprehension of six local, college age men who set the fire. The focus of the video is made up of footage of the restorative conference conducted by the International Institute for Restorative Practices. It concludes with television news footage after the sentencing.

February 18, 2017 Pete Letkemann, Lois Pullano and Allison Cox, Family Advisory Board Members, presented information on the issues it has been working to address with the MDOC at their quarterly meetings. Attendees were invited to give input to be taken back to the quarterly meetings.

March 18, 2017 Kyle Kaminski Legislative Liaison, Michigan Department of Corrections shared the Department's goals of increased programming, family inclusion, support and positive steps towards rehabilitation within MDOC. He discussed the Department's work with the



Family Advisory Board, a part of Citizens for Prison Reform's work. He answered numerous questions from the audience.

April 22, 2017 Training on meeting with Legislators was provided. Attendees worked on and discussed the 2017 CPR Priorities for the 6th Annual Legislative Education Day.

May 11, 2017 CPR's Sixth Annual Legislative Education Day. Legislative Co-Sponsors **Rep. Martin Howyrlak, Rep. Dave Pagel, and Rep. Stephanie Chang** gave welcoming remarks. **Rep. David LaGrand** and **MDOC Director Heidi Washington** were the keynote speakers. **Prof. Paul Draus**, University of Michigan - Dearborn, reported on the Restorative Justice Project at Macomb Correctional Facility and **Prof. Aaron T. Kinzel**, University of Michigan - Dearborn, explained Post-Incarceration Syndrome.

July 15, 2017 Prof. Aaron Kinzel is passionate about Restorative Justice and its impact. Aaron talked about how he used Restorative Justice when he was incarcerated and conducted a restorative justice exercise.

August 19, 2017 Pete Letkemann, CPR Vice-President, and Chairperson of the Family Advisory Board screened "Faces of Incarceration," a documentary about prison families. Pete appears in the film

produced by the International Prisoner Family Conference.

September 16, 2017 Aaron Suganuma, MSW, is the Coordinator of Nation Outside, the Director of Brighter Way (a mentoring program for returning citizens), and a Substance Abuse Counselor. He talked about his re-entry work. Formerly incarcerated himself, Aaron discussed how families can best support a returning loved one.

*A video of this program can be viewed on the CPR website, www.micpr.org

2016-17 CPR PRIORITIES

Each year CPR focuses on a few issues that are important to prisoners' families. The 2016-17 priorities focus on increasing Family Connections, Healing and Support:

Support a Family Advisory Board Bill Rep. Stephanie Chang

- 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.

Provide Orientation for Family Members of Michigan Prisoners

- Families need to know how to navigate the prison system
- Families need to know policies and procedures on visitation, phone calls,

programming and parole from the beginning of the sentence

- CPR wants to work with Legislators and MDOC to make this happen
Promote family reunification through policies and programs
- Help resolve issues between families and prisoners to increase success
- Provide restorative justice programs to families and their loved ones
- Eliminate visitor restrictions for substance abuse misconducts
Protect corrections reforms that reduce prison population and recidivism
- Corrections Budget - We need real reforms that maintain reductions in prison population and reduce recidivism - not just cutting prison funding today.
- Reductions to prison operating budgets cuts staffing and programs at all facilities.
- Understaffed facilities are unsafe for staff and prisoners.
- Inadequate staffing negatively impacts visiting which hurts families and children.

INTERNATIONAL PRISONER'S FAMILY CONFERENCE

InterNational
PRISONER'S
FAMILY
CONFERENCE

ADVOCACY IN ACTION
COALITION

CPR sent Sandra Girard and Pete Letkemann to represent it at the 9th annual conference held in Dallas, Texas. Pete was featured in the documentary that premiered at the Conference, "Faces of Incarceration."

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 2903 likes currently and 827 page views. The week of Sept 27-October 3rd, it reached **12,636** people! A big 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 293 unique visitors and 827 page views. Another 99 people visited the Family Participation Program website. (These are being combined for the coming year.) Thanks to grants from the University Lutheran Church of East Lansing videos of CPR's monthly programs are also available on the website. Thanks to Daryl Alexander of MD Technologies for working with CPR to revise and update the new version of CPR's soon to be released web page.

EMAIL NOTIFICATIONS

Notices about CPR's meetings and other state-wide events are sent monthly via MailChimp. At the end of October 595 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 Jeremy Leik for managing this account.

FAMILY PARTICIPATION PROGRAM

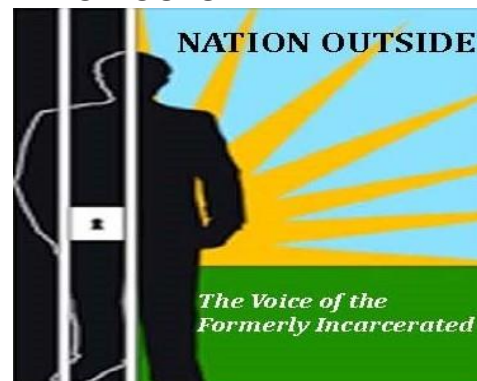
CPR sponsors the Family Participation Program which created the Family Advisory Board. The FAB meets every three months with MDOC administrators to present the family perspective and to advocate for changes in policies affecting family inclusion and reunification during and after incarceration.



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. It meets every other month. Go to www.michigancollaborative.org for more information on the MI-CEMI Work Groups and membership.

NATION OUTSIDE



CPR is also on the Steering Committee for **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 SINCERELY THANKS:

The **Endowment Fund** and **Social**

Action Team of **University Lutheran** and **Al Christian, Gary** and **Bob** at **Church** for the generous grants that Omnitec Solutions for rebuilding CPR's enabled CPR to purchase video segregation cell, creating posters, and equipment and hire technical assistance photographing Legislative Day! for videotaping and sharing its monthly programs on its web page and to update and upgrade its web page. This year University Lutheran Church's "Change for Change" initiative donated \$1388.23

to CPR.

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

The **West Lansing Church of Christ** for graciously providing backup space to CPR for monthly meetings.

The **Committee to End the New Jim Crow** at **Unitarian Universalist Church of Greater Lansing** for hosting CPR's 2016 Annual Meeting!

Rep. Martin Howrylak, for serving as the Legislative Sponsor of CPR's 6th Annual Legislative Day and **Rep. Stephanie Chang**, **Rep. Dave Pagel**, and **Sen. Margaret O'brien** for CoSponsoring!

All the CO-SPONSORS of CPR's 6th Annual Legislative Education Day:

Amreican Friends Service Committee;
American Civil Liberties Union
(Michigan); **A.R.R.O./NW Initiative;**

CAPPS; **James Dankovich, DC;**
Jackson Area Civil Rights Awareness Association; **Family Participation Program;** **Just Leadership USA (JLUSA);** **Michigan Council on Crime and Delinquency;** **Michigan League for Public Policy;** **Restorative Justice Universalist Church of Greater Lansing;** **Woodside Church of Flint;**

Coalition of West Michigan; Social Action Committee-Unitarian



PENNY PREUSS MEMORIAL FUND



CPR was deeply saddened to lose Penny Preuss. Penny was a very supportive Board Member. Penny ended a brave fight against cancer on June 18, 2017. In honor of Penny, CPR has created the Penny Preuss Memorial Fund to help incarcerated family members make a

sickbed visit or attend a memorial service. Those who meet the MDOC eligibility criteria for such visits must pay for the cost of security and transportation. You may make tax deductible donation to CPR, marked "Penny Memorial Fund"

**CITIZENS FOR PRISON REFORM
FINANCIAL OVERVIEW
FY 10/1/2016 - 09/30/2017**

Corrected ending balance for FY 2015-2016: **\$2,842.32**

Income: **\$7,617.23**

Sponsorships and donations	6708.23
T-Shirt Sales	0045.00
Fund Raisers	0864.00

Expenses: **\$5,053.08**

Annual Meeting	0338.41
Donations to church for space	0100.00
Dues & Subscriptions	0040.00
Printing & Copies	0174.58
Video & Projection	0117.98
P.O. Box Rental & Postage	0064.64
Legislative Day	2494.02
Meeting Supplies	0013.45
Assistance with Internet	0810.00
International Prisoner Family Conference	0900.00*

Balance in the Penny Preuss Memorial Fund: **\$0,062.08**

Ending Balance: **\$5,468.55**

CPR's income is primarily from donations by individuals and supporters of Legislative Education Day. The *Change for Change* initiative at the University Lutheran Church selected CPR for its 2017 beneficiary and donated \$1388.23 to CPR.

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.

Donations may also be made to the Penny Preuss Memorial Fund to CPR. Please mark on your check that it is for that Fund.

*\$300 of this was for the 2016 International Prisoner Family Conference. It wasn't paid until the current fiscal year.