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Annual Report 2014-2015



Clockwise: Members representing CPR at Prisoners' Family Conference in TX; a CPR meeting at West Lansing Church of Christ; Legislative Education Day

CPR seeks to educate, engage and empower families.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

At the October 2014 annual meeting, Patricia Lowe, June Walker and Peter Letkemann were elected as new board members. Peggy Christian, Monica Jahner, and Lois DeMott were re-elected. Others serving on the board during 2014-15 are Sandy Tuinstra, Dee Florence, Mora Wilkevicz, and Sandra Girard and Richard Rienstra, Rita Kerwin and Sherrie Guess.

Rich Rienstra was elected as President, Sandra Girard Vice-President, Mora Wilkevicz Secretary, and Peggy Christian Treasurer for 2014-2015.

Board meetings were held in December, February, April, July and October.

The Executive committee consists of the president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer and the chairs of committees. The Executive Board met monthly and reported to the Board.

Financial Overview: Jan-Oct 2015

CPR's income is from individuals and supporters of Legislative Education Day.

Beginning Balance:	\$3,084
Income:	\$4,143
Expenses:	\$4,471
Legislative Education Day:	\$2,386
Prisoners' Family Conf.:	\$ 600
Solitary Confinement Cell:	\$ 738
Miscellaneous: (Printing, copies, etc.):	\$ 747
Ending Balance:	\$2,847

MONTHLY PROGRAMS

CPR presented monthly programs that are open to the public, but especially targeted at family and friends of persons in prison.

November 15 – Lois DeMott and Pete Lektemann “Family Participation Program.”

December 13 – Rachel Litwiller “Strengthening the Relationship with your Incarcerated Loved One”

January 17 – Phil Pavona “Supporting Individuals and Families Affected by Addiction Issues During and After Incarceration.”

February 21 – Mark Cody “Addressing Issues Inside Michigan Jails and Prisons.”

March 21 – Dee Florence and Sandra Girard “Building Relationships with Legislators and Policy Makers.”

April 18 – Former State Representative Joe Haveman “Meeting your Legislators.”

May 16 – Attendees “Michigan Legislative Education Day and the 7th International Prisoners’ Family Conference.”

June 20 – Frank Rodriquez “Defender Guide to Michigan’s Commutation Process.”

July 18 – Aaron Kinzel “The Importance of Higher Educational Opportunities for People with Felony Records.”

August 15 – Angela Willoughby “Mental Health Specialty Courts.”

September 19 – Nicole Dingwell “Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.”

October 31 – Abram Huyser-Honig “Policy Perspectives on Crime and Poverty.”

2015 CPR PRIORITIES

CPR Priorities for 2015 are aimed at reducing the barriers to family involvement: 1) Provide an orientation for family members about prison policies and procedures; 2) Develop procedures for use of the standard Patient's Authorization for Disclosure of Health Information; 3) Increase the number of prisoners who receive visits; 4) Maximize visiting hours and days to avoid frequent termination of visits; 5) Eliminate the rule that takes away visiting rights for substance abuse violations; 6) Allow prisoners to make phone calls while in segregation; 7) Add a family member to the Michigan Correctional Officers' Training Council; and 8) Create a policy and procedure on guardianships.

SOLITARY CONFINEMENT CELL

Thanks to Al Christian and employees at Omnitech Solutions for rebuilding the cell and artist Reuben Kenyatta for painting it. The cell has been displayed at events including a Crossroads Bible Institute forum.

LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION DAY

CPR's Fourth Annual Legislative Day was held on April 20, 2015 in the Capitol. It was sponsored by Rep. Howrylak, Rep. Chang, Sen. O'Brien, and Sen. Young II co-sponsored.

American Friends Service Committee, Citizens Alliance on Prisons and Public Spending, Edgewood United Church of Christ Tri-county Re-entry Coalition, Family Participation Program, Humanity for Prisoners, Just Leadership USA, Michigan Council on Crime and Delinquency, Michigan League for Public Policy, Northwest Initiative AND

ARRO, Prisoners in Christ/CONTACT, Restorative Justice W. Michigan, The Micah Center, Unitarian Universalist Church Social Action Committee and Washtenaw Healing Communities were co-sponsors.

The Solitary Confinement Cell was set up on the Capitol lawn. Approximately 150 Legislators, Aides, family members, and other supporters attended and discussed CPR's priorities. Following lunch, CPR members met with their representatives.



INTERNATIONAL PRISONER FAMILY CONFERENCE

CPR helped send 6 representatives to the conference in Dallas, Texas. They made a presentation and exhibited the cell. See photo on cover.

LANSING JUNETEENTH EVENT

CPR displayed the model segregation cell and shared information with attendees.



NATIONAL ALLIANCE ON MENTAL ILLNESS (NAMI) WALK

For the 8th year, CPR participated in the NAMI Walk. This year it was held on September 26, 2015 on Belle Isle in Detroit. In addition to setting up the mock solitary confinement cell, 15 CPR members handed out information and shared our stories with those who attended.



CPR CO-SPONSORED EVENTS

CPR co-sponsored MCCD's Youth Beyond Bars forums, CAPPS community forums.

PUBLICITY/PUBLIC RELATIONS

Assistance to Families

CPR assisted families who contacted it through email, phone, Facebook or the website. Additional assistance was provided to individuals and families who attended the monthly programs.

CPR Facebook Page

Sandy Tuinstra is the main administrator running CPR's Facebook page. It includes information about CPR activities and meetings as well as notices of related events held by other organizations. As of October 29th there were 1,180 followers,

with a total reach of 4,626.

Website

CPR's website provides information about meetings, links to related web sites and organizations, forms and documents, re-entry information, board of directors and the history of CPR. In the month of October 2015 there were 1,353 website visitors.

Email Notifications

Notices about CPR's meetings and other state-wide events are sent monthly. At the end of October, 2015, 489 people were on CPR's e-mail list. If you are not receiving these notifications go to www.micpr.org and sign up.

CPR BOARD MEMBER IN NATIONAL MAGAZINE

CPR Board Member Patricia Lowe was interviewed for an article, The Black Family in the Age of Mass Incarceration by Ta-Nehisi-Coates, in the October 2015 issue of The Atlantic.

<http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2015/10/the-black-family-in-the-age-of-mass-incarceration/403246/>

The picture below of her and her family appeared on the cover.

