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# Annual Report 2012-2013



# ANNUAL REPORT 2012-2013

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

*Lois DeMott*

I am pleased and proud to present CPR's annual report 2012 – 2013 in its first year as a 501(c)(3) non-profit. It highlights how our programs, supports and services are making a difference in the lives of families, inmates and the community as we work towards prison system where all the incarcerated will be treated with dignity and the family voice will be heard and considered.

Our Legislative Day in May focused on oversight, accountability and programming. It was successful in bringing more awareness to legislators. Approximately 70 House Representatives and Senators attended. We continue meeting individually to share families' experiences with elected officials.

This year has also seen much progress in finding donors and sponsors to fund our initiatives. Receiving the Awesome Foundation's grant to put out our Resource Guide shows that CPR is gaining recognition and support for the work it does. We implemented the Scrip Program as a way families can give back to the organization without spending extra money.

October has seen progress in the implementation of our strategic goals and priorities. CPR planned and participated in a celebration of Youth Justice Awareness Month. This is the first time a Michigan organization has been involved in this national initiative. The goal is to make the public aware of the effects of incarceration on juveniles, families, and communities.

Thank you everyone who has supported us: donors, members, community partners, and volunteer board members. Your dedication to our mission and investment of funds, time and knowledge are at the core of our accomplishments. Together we are building a more humane and just prison system for the incarcerated, and working to provide education and supports for families and friends whose loved ones live within this system.

## Mission Statement

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To support, empower, and unify prisoners' loved ones and concerned citizens to bring quality humane treatment for all incarcerated.

To provide accurate information that will encourage education of our fellow citizens, communities, and elected officials.

To have effective accountability that will promote safer prisons, safer public, and economical cost savings

## **FINANCIAL OVERVIEW**

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### **INCOME**

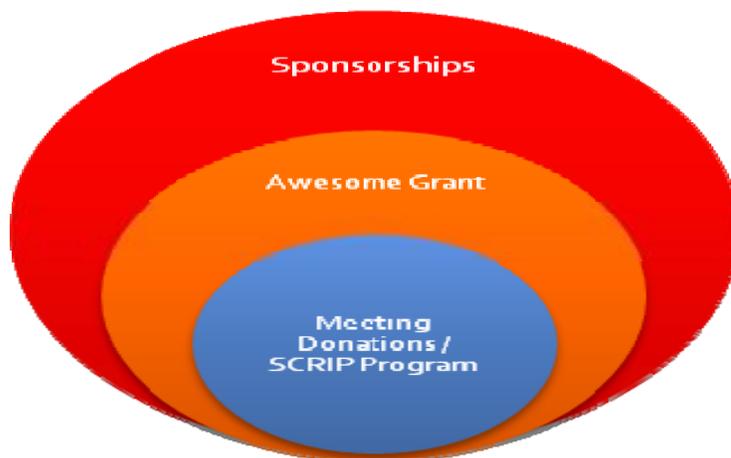
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#### **Main Sources of Funding**

CPR's main sources of income have been from substantial sponsorships from several contributors associated with the organization.

We also received the Awesome Foundation grant for \$1000 for the specific purpose of distributing our Resource Guide in Washtenaw County and outlying regions.

The remaining income, comes from minor contributions at monthly meetings and SCRIP program contributions.



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### **EXPENSES**

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Most of CPR's expenses have been associated with administrative purchases such as: business cards, brochures, mileage and a new lap-top computer.

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### **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

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Financial statements for the year are attached with the annual report.

# 2012 – 2013 Accomplishments

## LEGISLATIVE DAY 2013

On May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2013 we held our third Legislative Advocacy Day in collaboration with several other organizations. The purpose of the day was for families, friends and advocates to address their concerns about the oversight and accountability of Michigan prisons. Testimony was taken and videotaped at the event. It can be viewed under “*Our Stories*” on our website at [www.micpr.org](http://www.micpr.org) CPR participated for the sixth



## NAMI WALK 2013



year in the National Alliance on Mental Illness's (NAMI) annual walk. The walk raises awareness of the treatment of the mentally ill, with CPR's focus being the treatment of the mentally ill in prisons.

This year the group gained a lot of recognition due to the display of our model segregation cell, with the tagline “No place for the mentally ill”. The cell sparked the emotions of many attending the walk.

## **NATION INSIDE**

Lois attended the second yearly Nation Inside gathering of prison reform groups from across the nation.

The goal of this gathering was to educate and train members of organizations to start campaigns in their respective states.

CPR has begun a “Decarcerate Michigan” campaign. We look forward to other groups joining and utilizing this platform. The campaign is still a work in progress.



Nation Inside Gathering- Detroit, MI

## **FAMILY MEETINGS**

In the past year we have participated in five meetings with the Michigan Department of Corrections., The meetings have addressed important issues affecting many families, such as: loss of visits, parole board issues, need for release of information, increasing phone service costs and the poor quality of the phone services.

Our meeting with legislative members to address the lack of information posted on MDOC's website resulted in boilerplate language mandating that the MDOC

create an electronic family informational packet.

## OCTOBER YOUTH JUSTICE AWARENESS MONTH

CPR, in collaboration with the Michigan Council for Crime and Delinquency and Association for Children's Mental Health, spearheaded Michigan's first year of involvement in the nationally recognized Youth Justice Awareness month. In order to educate legislators, CPR, MCCD and ACMH have been delivering weekly flyers to all legislative members. Furthermore, because of our efforts, on October 24<sup>th</sup> the Michigan Senate and House will adopt a resolution declaring October Youth Justice Awareness month in Michigan. Below is a sample of the first weeks flyer delivered to our legislative members.

### October is National Youth Justice Awareness Month

Over 70% of youth in the juvenile justice system have a diagnosable mental health need.



### Austin S. age 15



Austin has struggled for years with behavioral issues. Beginning in grade school, he was diagnosed with ADHD and Conduct Disorder, cycled through medications and therapists, and put into special education programs.

But it never seemed to be enough and Austin's behavior continued to escalate. He was suspended from school numerous times, he began stealing things, his impulses were out of control, and his aggression increased. Eventually Austin was arrested for theft and sent to a Michigan county detention center.

Despite his long history of mental health needs, it wasn't until after his arrest that he finally got the care he needed. After spending months in detention, Austin was diagnosed with a Severe Emotional Disorder. This diagnosis opened doors to the right services and as of February 2013, Austin was taken off probation.

*"I'm trying to now make a difference so that kids don't have to go to juvy to get the help they need."*

Austin, March 2013.

# **GOALS FOR 2013-2014**

- Complete the Awesome Foundation grant project, which involves getting our Resource Guide out to the families and friends in Washtenaw County, through posters and placing the guide in Washtenaw County jail and probation offices
- Seek additional grant funding and sponsorship opportunities; in order to take on future projects Host Legislative Advocacy Day to keep legislators informed and aware of families' and friends' concerns
- Continue to facilitate meetings with legislative members to educate and bring awareness to issues as they arise
- Create a Michigan Prisoner Family Bill of Rights  
Strengthen and diversify our Board membership and add more Directors