

Annual Report 2015-2016



Citizens for Prison Reform 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.

CPR AT BELLE ISLE - 2016 NAMI WALK



CPR CELL ON THE DIAG FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN "HUMANIZE THE NUMBERS" EVENT



CPR 2016 LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION DAY MOCK SEGREGATION CELL IN SPEAKER'S LIBRARY, CAPITAL BUILDING, LANSING

Join us at www.micpr.org

Write to us at micpr.org@gmail.com

Follow us at www.facebook.com/Citizens-for-Prison-Reform-171253319587634

Call us and leave a message at **269-339-0606**

2015 ANNUAL MEETING

At the October 2015 Annual Meeting Dee Florence, Sandra Girard, and Mora Wilkevicz were reelected to three year terms as Board Members. Others serving on the Board during 2015-16 were Peggy Christian, Sherrie Guess, Monica Jahner, Rita Kerwin, Lois Pullano, Pete Letkemann, Patricia Lowe, Penny Preuss, Richard Rienstra, and June Walker. Board meetings were held in January, February, March, and April.

Sandra Girard was elected as President, Pete Letkemann, Vice-President, Mora Wilkevicz, Secretary, and Peggy Christian, Treasurer for 2015-2016. The Executive Board includes the president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer and the chairs of committees. The Executive Board met in November, December, February, March, April, May, July, August, September and October and reported to the Full Board.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

CPR's income is primarily from donations by individuals and supporters of Legislative Education Day. However, this year University Lutheran Church gave two grants to CPR. The Endowment Fund gave \$2000 and the Social Action Committee gave \$200.

Beginning Balance:	\$2,707
Income:	5,912
Total Expenses:	5,847
Legislative Day:	2,672
Prisoner's Family Conf:	600
Ending Balance:	\$2,772

MONTHLY PROGRAMS 2015-16

CPR's monthly programs, targeted at family and friends of persons in prison, are open to the public. This past year we presented the following programs:

October: Abram Huyser-Honig talked about "Prevention, Justice, and Rehabilitation: Reflections from Research in Honduras and Michigan."

November: Mary Elaine Kiener, RN, PhD, spoke about the grief that prisoner families experience throughout their loved one's incarceration, often not recognized. She provided information on how to recognize and work through that grief.

December: Candice Wilmore presented the "Peace Education Program (PEP) which helps People Find Their Inner Resources."

January: Attorney Dan Manville, Clinical Professor of Law & Director, Civil Rights Clinic MSU College of Law, lectured about "Understanding Prisoners' Rights."

February: Dr. Princewell Onwere, DO, a Psychiatrist at ICF, discussed "Life After Prison for the Mentally Ill."

March: Mora Wilkevicz and Pete Letkemann, CPR Board Members, talked about "Building a Relationship with Your Elected Officials."

April: Dee Florence, CPR Board Member, showed a power point presentation on "How to Build Bridges with Legislators."

May: Lois Demott, Mora Wilkevicz, and Peggy Christian talked about "Family Experiences with Life After Prison."

July: Attorney Christine Piatkowski and Ron Heilman spoke on efforts to make jail and prison visits more family-friendly.

August: Kim Buddin-Crawford, an ACLU Attorney spoke on the "Short and Long Term Impacts of a Sex Offense Conviction on Returning Citizens and Their Families" and a member of Professional Advisory Board (PAB) to the Coalition for a Useful Registry talked about how to make the SORA fairer and more effective.

September: Carol Rienstra shared "Re-Entry Resources for People on the Sex Offender Registry" and two men on the Registry talked finding work, housing and support.

2015-16 CPR PRIORITIES

Each year CPR focuses on a few issues that are important to prisoners' families. The 2015-16 priorities focus on increasing opportunities for family connection,

inclusion, and reunification during and after incarceration.

Support passage of the Family Advisory Bill, HB 4165.

- HB 4165 would create a Family Advisory Board within the MDOC
- FAB would give a family voice on how policies and practices affect families

Expand prisoner families' access to information, resources and supports necessary to navigate the prison system.

- Families need to know how to navigate the prison system
- They 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

Request the addition of prisoner family members and non-profit agencies advocating for prisoners and returning citizens to MDOC's Community Liaison Committees.

- MDOC needs to have families' and prisoners' perspectives in selecting and establishing programs and reviewing practices

Promote positive family reunification through Restorative Justice education and implementation.

- Michigan depends on families to provide re-entry support
- Families and prisoners may have unresolved issues
- Resolving these issues increases success in prison and upon release

Solitary Confinement Cell

The cell was displayed in the Speaker's Library in the Capitol Building, on the Diag at the University of Michigan, and at the Detroit NAMI Walk.

International Prisoner's Family Conference

CPR sent representatives to the conference in Dallas, Texas again this year. Pete Letkemann, CPR Vice-President, was a Keynote Speaker and gave an inspiring talk on "From Faces to Numbers and Back Again."



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. For the week of October 4-10, the CPR Facebook page reached 3, 374 people.

Website - www.micpr.org

CPR's website has information about meetings, links to related web sites and organizations, forms and documents, re-entry resources, and a Resource Manual for Prisoner Families. The week of October 11, there were 301 unique visitors and 686 page views. **NEW THIS YEAR! Thanks to grants from the East Lansing University Lutheran Church** videos of CPR's monthly programs are also available.

Email Notifications

Notices about CPR's meetings and other state-wide events are sent monthly. At the end of October 11, 2016, 567 people were on CPR's e-mail list. If you don't receive them go to <http://www.micpr.org> and sign up, then return the e-mail for verification.

NATIONAL ALLIANCE ON MENTAL ILLNESS (NAMI) WALK - DETROIT

CPR participated in the NAMI Walk for the 9th year. It was held September 25, 2016 on Belle Isle in Detroit. CPR



displayed the mock solitary confinement cell,



gave out information,



shared stories,



and participated in the walk.

Family Participation Program

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

HB 4565 which would require the MDOC to maintain a family advisory board passed the House of Representatives on April 28 and was assigned to the Senate Judiciary Committee on May 3, 2016.



Family Advisory Board

Michigan Collaborative to End Mass Incarceration

MI-CEMI is a collaboration of Michigan's leading criminal justice system reform organizations. It is a new initiative to safely reduce our jail and prison populations. CPR signed on to the MI-CEMI Resolution to End Mass Incarceration and attends bi-monthly meetings. CPR also serves on the MI-CEMI Conditions of Confinement Work-Group. Go to <http://miccd.org/mi-cemi> for more information.

NATION OUTSIDE

CPR is also on the Steering Committee for **Nation Outside**, a new 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 THANKS:

The **ENDOWMENT FUND** and **SOCIAL ACTION TEAM** of **UNIVERSITY LUTHERAN CHURCH** for the generous grants that enabled CPR to purchase video equipment and hire technical assistance for videotaping and sharing its monthly programs on its web page and to update and upgrade its web page.

SANDY TUNISTRA for managing CPR's FaceBook Page!

JEREMY LEIK for managing CPR's MailChimp Account and sending out its monthly e-mails!

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!

The **WEST LANSING CHURCH OF CHRIST** for generously allowing CPR to hold many of its monthly meetings there!

The **CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH** of Lansing for sharing its space with CPR for some of its monthly meetings!

REP. MARTIN HOWRYLAK, for serving as the Legislative Sponsor of CPR's 5th Annual Legislative Day and **REP. STEPHANIE CHANG**, **SEN. BERT JOHNSON** and **SEN. MARGARET O'BRIEN** for Co-Sponsoring!

All the CO-SPONSORS of CPR's 5th Annual Legislative Education Day:

AFSC; ACLU; A.R.R.O./NW Initiative; CAPPS; Church of Servants; James Dankovich, DC; JACRAA; Family Participation Program; JLUSA; MCCD; Micah Center; MLPP; Network 4 Real Change; Prison Fellowship; Restorative Justice Coalition of West Michigan; Social Action Committee-Unitarian Universalist Church of Greater Lansing; and Woodside Church of Flint!

AL CHRISTIAN, GARY and **BOB** at Omnitec Solutions for rebuilding CPR's segregation cell and photographing Legislative Day!

REP. CHANG for sponsoring HB 4565 – the Family Advisory Board Bill!

The **UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF GREATER LANSING** and its **SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE** for hosting CPR's 2016 Annual Meeting!

CITIZENS FOR PRISON REFORM is a **501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization**. It depends on your donations to support its work. You can mail a donation to CPR, P.O. Box 80414, Lansing, MI 48908.



Rep. Martin Howrylak at CPR 2016 Legislative Day



Rep. Stephanie Chang at CPR 2016 Legislative Day



Jason Smith, Youth Justice Policy Associate, MCCD



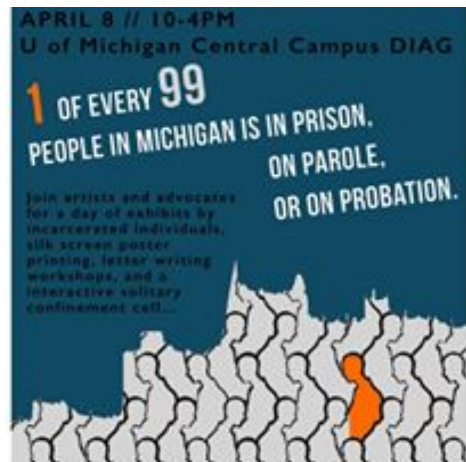
Rep. David LaGrand at 2016 Legislative Day



Fifth Annual CPR Legislative Education Day – 2016



Artist Reuben Kenyatta and Monica Jahner, A.R.R.O. Coordinator



Art by University of Michigan Students
Zoe Faylor and Elise Haadsma