

# "Voices Unheard"

## *THE TERRY HARRIS PROJECT UPDATE: "FAMILIES OF PRISONERS: VOICES UNHEARD"*



### Thanks for your support!!

When we had this crazy idea 3 years ago to set up an Endowment Fund to raise awareness and funds for Families of Prisoners and those impacted by incarceration, we had no idea how fast it would grow!

At Terry's benefit concert last August, someone asked how do you setup an Endowment? Terry's response, "\$5 Bucks and a Vision!" That is literally all we had in April 2011

just before Terry's 40th Birthday. But we also had a couple of friends that believed in what was on Terry's heart and once we pitched the vision of what we thought might be possible through the Community Foundation, they gave us the \$100 to start. We put in the \$5 bucks.

Now three years later we have raised over \$12,000 most of it coming from You, friends and family.

Those who believe in what Terry is doing and continues to do day-to-day. Attempting to make an impact in his community for the benefit of this hidden population. They have so many challenges and need to fight just to have the same options as others, like a decent place to live and a job. Yes they have done many wrong things. But their families should not suffer as well, especially the children. The kids are really the innocent victims of crime. Together we can make a difference!

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### Benefit Concert with Danny Brooks: August 31st, 2013



On August 31st last year, we had the privilege of hosting our good friends, Danny and Debi Brooks. Terry and Danny first met

about 10 years ago during UCB Canada Radio-thons. They have remained friends even though Danny now lives in Texas and travels throughout the US & Canada. It was an amazing night of foot stomping music that rocked the house. We are so thankful for their generosity and time to assist us in this worthwhile cause. Danny spent some time in Jail in his wilder days and now tours the prisons and communities giving testimony and music to how the Lord changed his life.

Thanks to many of you we raised over \$3400 in one night and the money continued to flow into the Fund well into the fall. Making it a great finish to the year.

Thanks so much!!



## Grant # 1 Community Garden at John Howard Spring 2012



Project Summary:  
*To create a community garden to be operated and maintained by the residents of the John Howard Transitional House. This garden will provide a positive activity for the residents to engage in and also provide fruits and vegetables for the residents. Additionally, this will help them to maintain a healthy and active lifestyle. Any excess will be donated to the food bank.*

This was a great way to launch the benefit of Terry's Endowment Fund by giving back to the John Howard Society where Terry's passion for Prisoners and their Families all began in 2001. It was really emotional for us as we toured the Transition House that was once a wood working shop and heard about how they were planning on supporting former inmates

and those in the community who needed assistance. We were hidden from view under the banner of Community Foundation and that was the best part. Only a few knew that part of the funds that made the garden possible came from Terry and his friends and family. It was a wonderful confirmation of what God was going to do through this fund. Thanks again for your support!!

## Grant # 2 Telling the Children Brochure Fall 2013

Project Summary: *It is a challenge to tell children that someone in their family is going to jail. What do you say? How much information should you give them? What changes will occur? With 8 prisons in the Kingston area, more than the average number of children living here have a parent or relative incarcerated. These 'silent' victims of crime receive little attention in terms of*

*funding or services yet must deal with the social, emotional and economical impact that is created by this situation. With CFKA funding, CFCN will create a 'Telling the Children' brochure that will give parents and caregivers some advice and support on how to explain what has happened in their family, help them cope and understand incarceration in a valuable 'take-away' form. The*

*brochure will be distributed through Kingston non-profits and at community events, offering adults the information they need when they are ready for a discussion around incarceration.*

Terry was pleased to donate to this cause. A copy of the brochure is available upon request, just send us an email if interested.

CFKA Grants are changing our communities one grant at a time. You are making a difference!

## Grant # 3 YMCA of Kingston, Y Friendz Spring 2014

Project Summary:  
*Y Friendz is a new partnership between the YMCA of Kingston and the Salvation Army designed to reach out and promote social acceptance and inclusion for families with an incarcerated family member. The YMCA will offer free PD Day and March Break Camp activities to these families so that we can help play an active role in improving*

*the social and health related outcomes for inmate's families. Our extensive experience working with youth means we understand that early life experiences have a profound effect on their future. With our focus on positive change, we believe that everybody has a right to equal access to physical, mental and social wellbeing. The*

*loss of a parent to incarceration can result in trauma, disruptions and chaos that few children experience without serious consequences. The Y Friendz program is a chance to work collaboratively to better meet the needs of the families left behind.*

YMCA partnered with Freedom Ministries.



## CHILDREN OF PRISONERS SPEAK OUT:

### A child of a Prisoner reflects on the day his Dad was arrested and the day he returned home . . .

*"There was a definite bond and when he left when I was six years old. I remember this picture vividly. You can imagine this six year old standing in the middle of the living room, two gentleman were coming to the door, I don't know if you have ever seen the movie, "Dragnet" with the hats and the ties and stuff, long over coats. Two gentleman*

*standing in the doorway, waiting for my Dad. My Dad walked over to me leaned down and said, "Son you're the man of the house." If you can imagine the stress, the pressure that I felt. I was 6. I was the oldest of 4. All of the sudden at that point I felt that I had lost my childhood. I had to be a support to my mother. Now whether I did an adequate enough job, the pressure was on. I remember that to this day. That had a huge impact on me and my development. I had*

*a struggle trying to grow up and at the same time I was a kid and I just felt I never really had a childhood. So there was a certain amount of anger and frustration with my Dad. When I was 13, my Dad came back into my life and I was shaving. He came over and told me that I wasn't doing it right. I was livid. I was like, "How dare you tell me how to shave?" But in a normal family that wouldn't be an issue. But I remember how angry I was and I don't know if I ever really got rid of it."*



*"All of the sudden at that point I felt that I had lost my childhood."*

## Prisoners Justice Day:

Taken from:  
<http://torontoist.com/events/event/toronto-observes-prisoners-justice-day/>

It was 39 years ago that Eddie Nolan was found dead in a solitary confinement cell at Millhaven, a penitentiary in Bath, Ontario. On the first anniversary of his death, August 10, 1975, Nolan was memorialized by a group of fellow Millhaven inmates. Saturday (August 10th 2014) marks the thirty-eighth annual **Prisoner's Justice Day**, as the occasion has come to be known

in justice advocacy circles. The day is now recognized by thousands of Canadians, both in and out of prison. Prisoner's Justice Day is an opportunity for people across the country to reflect on the challenges faced by Canadians in the penal system, and all those prisoners who have died in Canadian prisons. Among prisoners this entails fasting and rejecting work. But there are also ways for people living on the outside to take part.

The focus of this year's Prisoners' Justice Day is the impact that having a parent in prison has on children and families," said Jessica Reid, host of the Holy Trinity event and co-founder of one of its sponsors, [F.E.A.T. for Children of Incarcerated Parents](#).

Although the Canadian penal system has changed since 1975, prisoners still face myriad challenges. Census data shows that the number of Canadians living behind bars grew by 17 per cent between 2006 and 2011.

Mental health issues continue to haunt a staggering proportion of inmates. A 2009 Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) study found that one tenth of all men and one third of all women living incarcerated in federal prisons suffered from some form of mental illness.





## Want to help in a creative way? Actors needed!

One of the most important things we can do to help people understand the challenges faced by families of prisoners is to tell their stories. Sara Beck has written a play based on Terry's interviews with people affected by incarceration. We've transformed the play into a workshop, and

we're ready to start trying it out.

We're looking for a few men and women (any ages) to read monologues at the workshops. We only need two actors needed per performance, but we'd like to have a team of people we can call on.

You don't need to

memorize anything and you don't even need to stand up to act: the whole workshop will be done with the scripts in front of you. We'll even coach you through the acting.

We provide the words, you provide the voice!

If you're interested, please contact Terry or Dawn

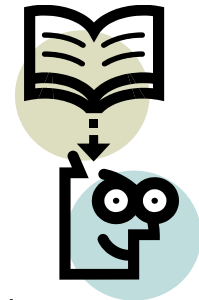
## Perhaps another book: "Voices Unheard" ?

For many years, Terry has been collecting experiences, anecdotes and stories of people impacted by incarceration.

This includes not only offenders themselves, but their family members and the agencies who serve them. Most of the material is firsthand accounts of particular individuals and some of it is composite experiences of various

people over many years. It is in a rough draft form now. The purpose of the book is to allow the reader to vicariously enter the lives of people impacted by incarceration and understand how the world is experienced from their perspective.

Stay tuned for further developments in 2015!




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## Community Foundation for Kingston and Area (CFKA)

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*Community Foundations bring together people who care about their communities... to strengthen their communities by partnering with Donors.*

Community Foundations **bring together people** who care about their communities. They are independent, volunteer-driven, charitable organizations that aim to **strengthen their communities** by facilitating philanthropy, by partnering with donors to build permanent endowments and other funds from

which they support community projects, and by providing leadership on issues of broad community concern.

Since its inception in 1995, the Community Foundation for Kingston and Area has awarded approximately **\$7M in grants**, including **800 Community Grants**

totaling close to **\$2M** to local organizations.

Together the **191 Community Foundations in Canada** are among the largest supporters of Canadian communities, having **\$3B in assets** and in 2010 provided **over \$150M** in support of local priorities and organizations.



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We're on the Web!

See us at:

<http://youtu.be/byMUvObRLU8>

## How you can help?

1) We always need prayer for what we are involved in. There are many challenges and we need wisdom to know how to provide the best support.

2) Consider making a donation to CFKA for the TERRY HARRIS ENDOWMENT FUND that benefits Families of

Prisoners and those impacted by Incarceration.

All donations to CFKA are tax deductible.

3) Send words of encouragement to Terry that He is making a difference! And what God has laid on his heart, is GOOD, even with the challenges. Thanks!

## What is happening next year in 2015

Community Foundation for Kingston and Area are planning a major fundraiser for May 2015. More details will follow and Terry's fund may be highlighted. Mark your calendar for **Saturday, May 2nd, 2015.**

Terry will be working on his next book, "**Voices Unheard**" and more details will come as the book progresses.

Sara (our playwright) is busy finalizing a workshop/play that Terry can use in the community

## Terry's Final Thoughts...

We want to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for supporting our vital work assisting those impacted by incarceration. Your encouraging words,

prayers and financial support are doing much to change the lives of this often forgotten and highly stigmatized population. Thank you for making a difference!



to raise awareness for this population and help educate those who serve them. Stay tuned!

We continue to brainstorm on ways we can raise more funds for the TERRY HARRIS ENDOWMENT. If you have any ideas, please let us know. Together we are making a difference. Thanks for your support!!

If you no longer want to receive Terry's updates, please send us an email and we will remove your name. Thanks!



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