

**“The lonely He makes part of a family. The prisoners He leads into prosperity until they sing for joy.”**  
**Psalm 68:6a**



December 2023

Dear CPM Family,

It is almost a year. A year of new beginnings. A year of starting over. A year of desperate growth. A year of lessons and rewards, hiccups and hallelujahs. A year of victory amid a few defeats. A year of knowing who your friends are, who they are not.

Meet Madeleine...

We first met Madeleine, well, almost a year ago. She had only been out of prison, where she had spent a couple of years, for less than a week. She was deer-in-the-headlights kind of cautious, reserved, but sure-footed and determined toward her success. Little did I know then what a beautiful friend she would become. We have been through some stuff together, and I am inspired by her resiliency, the honest way she greets life, her tenacity for progress and victory.

When Madeleine came to our office at the parole building, she already was in a sober-living transitional home. She attended the mandatory Parole Orientation, and it was there she heard about *Stephen R. Covey's 7 Habits of Highly Effective Parolees* class we offered. Immediately she was smitten. Madeleine graduated the 10-week class and was chosen as a student speaker because of how she'd allowed 7 Habits to excavate her life. Madeleine also was pouring herself into a relationship with Jesus and was also excelling in a job she had landed within that first week of her release. It wasn't long before she was made Manager at the restaurant, and in less than six months, she'd moved into her own apartment. Madeleine today is filling her place with a little bit of furniture, piece by piece, and, with peace and victory and hope.

It hasn't all been sunshine and flowers, however, for Madeleine. She is one year later fighting to have her daughter in her life. From Day 1, the child's father dangled her daughter in front of her like a bone, tugging her out of reach every time Madeleine confirmed their relationship would no longer be sustainable.

Having your child in your life never should come with a price tag of selling yourself out to someone who is no longer healthy for you. This battle has not come easy, and because of her record, Madeleine has had to prove herself even more, and on her own, because attorney

retainer fees are difficult to come by for anyone, let alone someone who has just stepped out of incarceration. But Madeleine has been proactive and dedicated, and began with the end in mind, persevering to become the best version of herself for her little girl and their future together. The anguish, obstacles, and disappointment are proving grounds for Madeleine’s endurance, and she is looking forward to a good outcome at her December court date so she can be reunited with her daughter.

Just this week, we received an emergent call from Madeleine. She had just learned there were 2 arrest warrants against her on bogus, trumped-up charges in her custody battle filed in a county 180 miles away. The requirements were for her to turn herself into that jail and go before the judge. This is a young lady who has been trying her very best to follow the rules and not color outside the lines. Bravely, Madeleine assured us she was fine to take a bus and handle turning herself in (as her family is not in the area). But how does a hurting, young lady/mom walk through this alone? Your support of Connections affords us opportunities to drop everything and go, and even though there are some things that we all must face by ourselves, when there is the possibility of supporting someone such as Madeleine and being tangible help and hope, we are called to do that.

*“When I think of this situation, and all these unfair, unreasonable charges—and not being able to see my four-year-old daughter—it just motivates me more to keep fighting and doing what’s right. That my daughter needs me. This is just the beginning, but I am in it for the long haul. I just hope someday the truth is revealed; and most importantly, the truth about how much I love her and how good of a mother I am.” Madeleine Boone*

Madeleine is one of the reasons why we were so certain the Lord was opening other doors for us in our ministry. The deep need for community so many of our brothers and sisters coming out of incarceration feel has caused us to seek God’s face and trust His heart for our upcoming venue and purpose. Somewhere to belong, a safe place to let down our guard, a location for resources, food and fellowship, where Jesus will meet all of us (some not even knowing their need for Him), a place to **rescue, redeem, restore** precious lives in need of a Savior, and tangible support and care. Madeleine is one of many who stay connected—plugged into—an ongoing relationship with us and receive encouragement, and as needed, resources from CPM with our desire that we can continue to be a voice of hope and Jesus in their lives.

For this reason, we want to invite you into our first ever physical location offering care, community, and resources. The **“Connections Kindness Café & Closet”** will open to the public after the first of the year. We are in the remodel-phase of our property currently, as well as seeking churches and organizations for support with Clothing Drives. CPM has also purchased a **food truck** (the cost to build a kitchen in our new location was excessive). Meals are not only necessary to those in need but also a means to generate some revenue to assist us in having some sustainability.



Sign is going up at the end of this month!



**We need you!** We need your clothes you want to clean out of your drawers and closets. We need you to believe with us for this next step in our journey we know God has called us to. Primarily, we need you to participate with us in prayer! Additionally, we humbly ask, as you consider your year-end giving for 2023, would you prayerfully examine any financial support you could earmark for Connections, whether a one-time gift or a continued monthly commitment toward our budget and overhead needs. We intend to work ourselves as much as possible, and we will value volunteers to help us as it will be a little bit before we can afford to employ a couple positions. We do not take lightly the needs ahead of this ministry, or the sacrifice from you who are helping men and women struggling with incarceration through this ministry.

We thank you for your prayers, for believing in Connections, for supporting what we take seriously, for caring about all the testimonies we share with you such as Madeleine's, and we appreciate your financial assistance. We can't wait to share pictures of our progress and our Grand Opening date when it becomes apparent. The new address, by the way, for Connections Kindness Café & Closet is 4559/4561 Austin Bluffs Parkway, Colorado Springs, CO 80918.

Please stop in and see us - shop and eat and hang out, when we open and always feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

The CPM Executive Board

**“The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places.”**

**Psalm 16:6a**

**God bless you and your family this Christmas season and in the New Year.**

**Connections Prison Ministry 501c3**

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All gifts are tax-deductible.

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