

## An Inspiring Story of Hope and Humanity

Marie Hamilton touched the lives of thousands of prison inmates through her volunteer work in the Pennsylvania prison system. She challenged conventional wisdom about how to rehabilitate inmates by creating unique programs built on principles of nonviolence and restorative justice. Her philosophy with inmates was simple—look for the good, affirm it, and then educate, empower, and support. The programs Marie created became the backbone of more than thirty years of volunteer work, and the results were transformational. Discover what this quiet, unassuming woman with no formal education in criminal justice did to tear down the walls of mistrust, bringing respect and humanity to people on both sides of the prison bars.

**This powerful story shows how persistent compassion melts cold hearts and reconciles enemies . . . even behind bars. An excellent resource for study and discussion.** ~ Donald B. Kraybill, coauthor of *Amish Grace: How Forgiveness Transcended Tragedy*

**I had heard of Marie's work long before I met her: the prison unit that didn't blow up during riots because of her nonviolence training program for inmates, her courage and compassion in working with people in prison. Now her inspiring story from small-town girl to justice advocate has been told, and told well. It needs to be heard.** ~ Howard Zehr, professor of restorative justice, Eastern Mennonite University, and author of *Changing Lenses: A New Focus for Crime and Punishment*

**One of the men Marie worked with wrote, "She was like an ear for the silent screams of men . . . and a voice for many who had never been heard." He no doubt spoke for many others who have had the privilege of being involved with Marie's work. Her generosity of spirit and genuine love for all . . . is a model to which all of us should aspire. The story of her dedication over the past thirty years is extremely compelling and a definite must-read.** ~ Lorraine Stutzman Amstutz, director, Office on Crime and Justice, Mennonite Central Committee

**Grace Goes to Prison is a story of relentless compassion. The reader sees the clanging, numbing world of prison life through the eyes of a woman whose determination, resourcefulness, and fearless love won the trust of hardened prisoners and prison administrators alike.** ~ Bob Gross, executive director, On Earth Peace

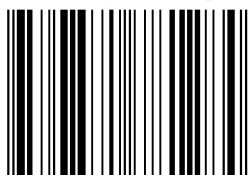
*Melanie G. Snyder is a writer, editor, and columnist. She is an advocate for restorative justice, and has been trained as a mediator in victim offender reconciliation. Currently she develops and teaches nonviolent conflict resolution programs for troubled youth. She lives in Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania.*



A portion of this book's sale will be donated to CentrePeace for its work with prison inmates.

  
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