

## GED program at Harvest House

by Daniel Crépault, BA (Hons)

Providing opportunities for educational development has always been of central importance at Harvest House Ministries. Since its founding in 1979, the staff has always encouraged residents to finish high school and pursue a post-secondary education. In 2007 Harvest House began offering residents a course that would prepare them to take the General Educational Diploma test and obtain a high school diploma. With the help of dedicated staff and volunteers, the GED program at Harvest House has become an amazing success. Here are a few facts about the program:

- Since 2007 there have been 122 participants in the GED program at Harvest House Ministries. To date, 50% of these participants graduated with their grade 12 equivalency diploma.
- 78% of those graduates were successful on their first attempt. The remaining 22% failed their initial attempt, but they persevered and eventually achieved success.
- 20% of those graduates have gone on to pursue a diploma at Algonquin College, or a degree at Carleton University or the University of Ottawa. Of these graduates all continue to be actively involved with Harvest House.
- The other 50% who were unsuccessful either left the program before taking the test or left the program after failing the test and did not make a second attempt.



Our experience with this program shows that it works. Most of the residents who take the test pass with flying colors and discover within themselves a potential for success that they never thought possible. They also discover that their experiences of failure in high school do not determine their potential to succeed in the future. The overwhelming majority of those who persist despite failures or difficulties are equally successful in obtaining a GED diploma. For many, this fosters a motivation to continue their education by pursuing a college or university degree. For those who choose to pursue an education beyond the GED, Harvest House will be there to help them every step of the way.



### The Mission of Harvest House

The Mission of Harvest House Ministries is to rehabilitate young men who are chemically dependent, to instill in them self-discipline, and to reintegrate them into society by an inner change brought about by faith in Jesus Christ.

[www.harvesthouse.org](http://www.harvesthouse.org)

## The Harvester is published by:

### Harvest House Ministries

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## Mark your calendars for upcoming Harvest House Events

**4th Annual Redemption Run** will take place on **Saturday, June 9th** at Harvest House. You can register for this event at [www.runningroom.com](http://www.runningroom.com).

This is a scenic country route great for all levels of runners. Come out as a family, on your own or with friends and enjoy a pancake breakfast and tour of Harvest House after the races!

**3rd Annual Jill Ferne Golf Tournament** will take place on **Wednesday, July 4th** at Manderley on the Green. Details and registration info is available on the Harvest House website.

**The 25th Annual Recovery Cup Softball Tournament** will take place on **Saturday, August 25th** at Centennial Park in Manotick. Information and tickets for this event will be available on the Harvest House website shortly.

**The 21st Annual Beat Beethoven Run** will take place on **Saturday, October 27th**. You can register for this event at [www.runningroom.com](http://www.runningroom.com).

This annual tradition takes place in downtown Ottawa every fall. The route is long and scenic and great for all levels of runners passing beautiful roadways and paths along the Ottawa River Road Way.

Proceeds from all of these events will go directly to benefit the programs at Harvest House.

Stay up to date on all Harvest House news and events via email.

Send an email to [hh2@harvesthouse.org](mailto:hh2@harvesthouse.org) and include your name and email and we will make sure you stay connected!

## Where to Find Us on the Web!



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[www.harvesthouse.org](http://www.harvesthouse.org)



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## Bill C-10

by Daniel Crépault, BA (Hons)

The Harper government recently introduced Bill C-10, also known as the Safe Streets and Communities Act. After being sent to the Senate for review, Bill C-10 became an official Canadian law on March 13, 2012. Bill C-10 combines nine legislations which were proposed by the Conservative party but were not passed by the end of the session in 2011.

Bill C-10 will change the Criminal Code of Canada by eliminating sentences that do not involve jail time, such as conditional sentences or house arrest, for crimes such as theft over \$5000, breaking and entering, importing/exporting drugs, sexual assault, and violence causing bodily harm or involving a weapon.



This law will also change the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act by creating several mandatory minimum sentences for drug crimes. For example, a minimum jail sentence of 1 year will be imposed for drug crimes such as dealing cocaine as part of a criminal organization. A mandatory minimum sentence of 2 years in jail will be imposed if the drug-related crime happened near a school, within a prison, or with the help of someone under 18 years old. Mandatory minimum sentences are also being imposed for possession of drugs for trafficking.

## Did you know...

- Since 2004 the average cost of keeping an inmate incarcerated has increased from \$87,919 per year to \$113,880 per year in 2012
- In 2004 the daily cost of incarceration was \$241 per inmate, whereas it increased to \$312 per inmate in 2012.
- In contrast, the average cost of keeping someone in treatment at Harvest House is \$66,667 per year, or \$182 per day as of 2012.

The length of the minimum sentence will depend on the type of drug. However, Bill C-10 also says that if an offender participates in drug court or a rehabilitation program, the sentencing judge is not required to impose the minimum jail sentence for their offence. Since the court relies on the treatment options already available within the community, the need for programs like Harvest House has never been greater.

Bill C-10 will also change the Corrections and Conditional Release Act by eliminating "pardons" and replacing them with "record suspensions". If an offender was charged with a serious crime, they must wait until 10 years elapse before being eligible for a record suspension, whereas an offender convicted of a less serious crime must wait 5 years. In addition, Bill C-10 will take away the possibility of receiving a record suspension for many offenders. For example, any offender who has been found guilty of three or more serious crimes for which the maximum sentence is 25 years will not be eligible for a record suspension.



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## The Michael Taylor success story.

by Joshua Hambleton, BA, MHA

Michael Taylor was born in Ottawa in 1975. His parents were divorced before he can remember and he was raised by his mother in the low-income projects of the city. His early childhood years were characterized by fear and shame. The tenant next door was a local biker clubhouse and Michael's family was not well liked in the neighbourhood so the family car and home were vandalized on a regular basis. This climate of fear characterized most of Michael's life.



When Michael was 6 or 7 years old, he was introduced to his father, Garland, through Harvest House Ministries. Garland was a resident at the Harvest House treatment centre in the 1980s. Michael would visit his father on weekends at Harvest House and began building a relationship with his father. One week Michael called to make plans with his father, but Garland's disease had pulled him back into the life of a drifter. No one could tell young Michael what happened to his father or where he was. His father was in and out of his life over the next decade, and even remarried his mother, only to continually disappoint as his addictions governed his life.

The typical addict behaviour of Michael's father, deserting loved ones, left Michael angry and confused. During this period, Michael's school life also fell apart as the victim of bullying and being failed by the educational system.



Frustration, fear, and anger led Michael to the only stable, trusted environment he had ever known-Harvest House. His first stay in residential treatment was when he was 18 years old. Michael remained connected to the program throughout his young adult life and was even a resident in the program with his father.



Michael was 5 years sober on January 19th, 2012. Addiction has been a part of his life since before he was born. Today Michael is healthy. He thinks differently. He knows how to express himself and avoid reacting to situations in destructive ways. He uses photography as a creative outlet, capturing his emotions in his artwork. Michael Taylor is a Harvest House success story.

\*Original Michael Taylor artwork available at [www.1975photograph.ca](http://www.1975photograph.ca)



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## Thank you Produce Depot!

Harvest House would like to thank the management and staff of Produce Depot for their continued and generous support. Over the last few years, Produce Depot has donated fresh fruit and vegetables to Harvest House on a weekly basis.



Their generosity was so great that their donations exceeded our need and we were unable to make use of all the fresh produce we were given. As a result, Harvest House reached out to four local community centers to offer them the extra food we were receiving.

Since then, Produce Depot has continued to give Harvest House donations of fresh fruit and vegetables four times a week, which we use to provide our residents with nutritious meals. What we are unable to use is delivered to community centers in the Heatherington, Banff, Russell, and Walkley areas by Harvest House staff. Produce Depot's generous donations are not only helping us, they are reaching into the community and helping thousands more.

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## University Success.

by Daniel Crépault, BA (Hons)

For roughly a quarter of the residents who successfully complete the GED and obtain a high school diploma, the next step is a post-secondary education. Since 2006, a total of 15 Harvest House graduates have attended the University of Ottawa, Carleton University, or Algonquin College. The programs of study they pursue are varied and reflect their personal ambitions and interests. They include Human Kinetics, Criminology, Law, Business, Linguistics, Psychology, Graphic Design, Electrical Engineering, and Hospital Administration.



Of those original 15 post-secondary students, 5 have successfully graduated and obtained a diploma or degree in their chosen field and 3 are still in the process of completion. These Harvest House graduates have achieved incredible success in their academic endeavours. Their grades place them in the top percentile of their respective institutions and nearly all of them have appeared on the school's honour roll at least once. In addition, many have received commendations, awards, and scholarships in recognition of academic excellence.

However, the success of Harvest House graduates in post-secondary pursuits is not limited to academics alone. Many have also become leaders within their schools by involving themselves in extracurricular activities, such as joining the student government or becoming academic mentors.

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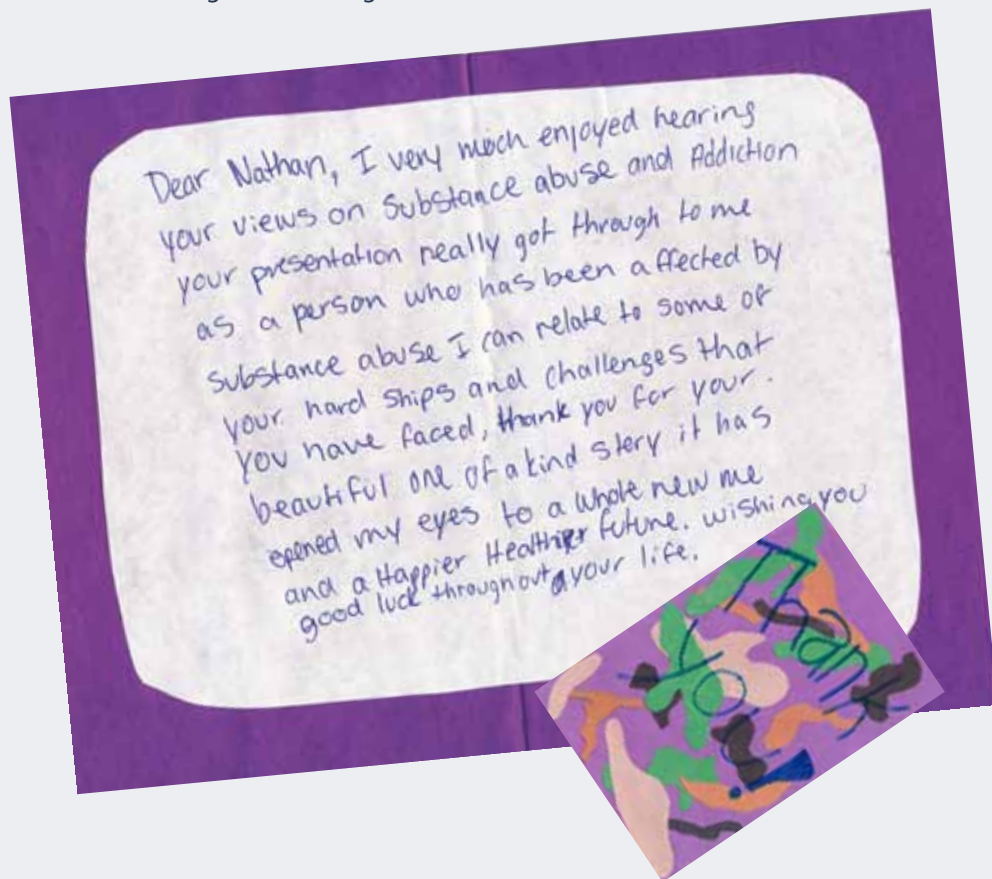
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## VIP

by Daniel Crépault, BA (Hons)

The VIP program is Harvest House's primary means of community outreach. It provides us with an opportunity to speak to students of all ages about the dangers of substance abuse. We participate in these presentations every year with great enthusiasm, hoping that the students will learn from our mistakes without having to learn from their own. Since 2003, we have done 555 VIP presentations in 161 schools in the Ottawa area. That works out to over **20, 569** students! Every year we receive dozens of letters from students, parents, and teachers thanking us for sharing in their classrooms.



Hello Nicole:

We were in contact a couple of months ago after I had had a lovely conversation with Adam. I hope he is continuing to do well.

I wanted to let Adam know that I had made a purchase, as I had intended. If you would be kind enough to pass on this message, I would be most grateful.

Also, I spoke to my friend who is in recovery and she told me when she was at an Alternative School (Frederick Banting in Stittsville), her class had a visit from people from Harvest House. Someone shared something that made my friend get sober and start working the AA program. A success story certainly worth sharing.

Thanks again for your help and I wish Adam well...one day at a time.

Sincerely,  
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