



# *the* Harvester

A Harvest House Newsletter | Spring 2021

## Multiplying Success: Josh's Story

In December 2008, Josh's life was in shambles. After an 8-year addiction to opiates, he had burned all his bridges, was heavily medicated, and had dropped out of high school with only one Grade 9 credit. He tried applying to other treatment programs, but they wouldn't accept him.

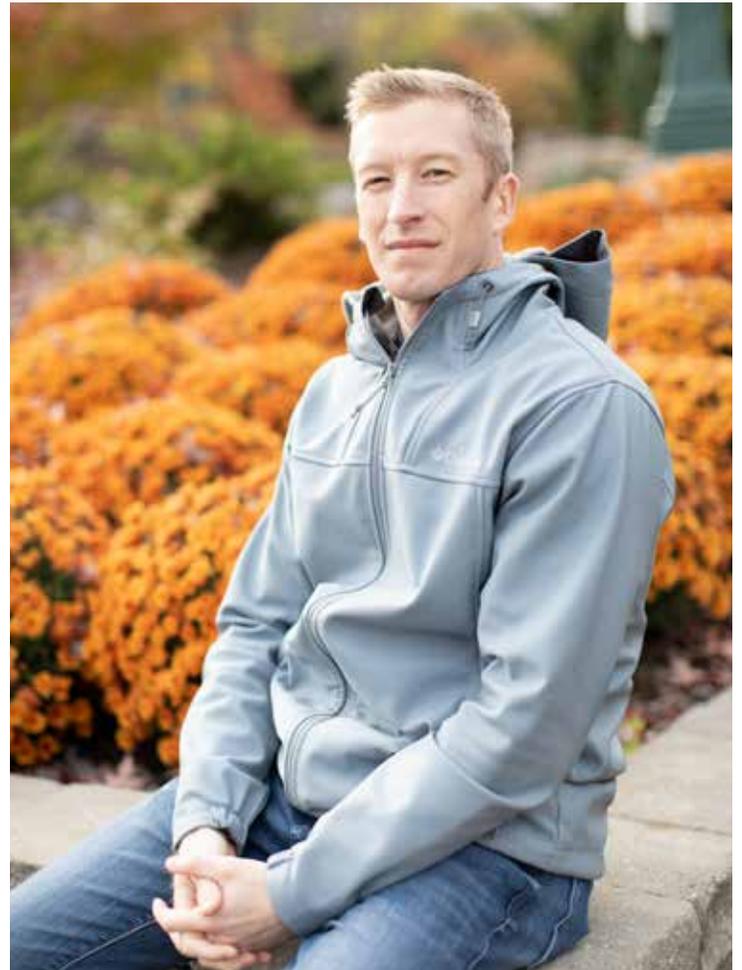
He remembers telling a counsellor, "Unless you lock me up for 6 months and counsel me every day, I'm not going to make it."

That counsellor had heard of Harvest House and recommended that Josh give us a call.

One week later, Josh arrived at Harvest House with nothing but a garbage bag of dirty clothes and a Bible.

### LETTING IN HOPE

Success wasn't immediate for Josh. He relapsed his first week at Harvest House and again three months later. But relapse isn't the end of the recovery journey. Harvest House continued to support him and teach him how to move forward. Failure can often be part of success; relapse can be part of recovery.



***As he spent time at Harvest House, things started to change for Josh. He began to accept that the life he lived in the past didn't have to define his future. He started to see a glimmer of hope.***

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### HARVEST HOUSE MINISTRIES OF OTTAWA-CARLETON MISSION STATEMENT

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)



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### Harvest House Ministries

3435 Ramsayville Road

Ottawa, ON K1G 3N2

Tel: 613-521-9114

www.harvesthouse.org



It took time for Josh to trust that the staff at Harvest House only wanted to help him. After years of living on the street and trusting no one, Josh had to learn how to let people help him.

At Harvest House, he also developed a relationship with Jesus Christ that has become the bedrock for his success in recovery.

## DISCOVERING POTENTIAL

The leadership at Harvest House saw Josh's potential, even if it took Josh some time to see it. About eight months into the program, he successfully wrote his GED exam and earned his high school equivalency. Having dropped out of high school with only one credit, this was a huge benchmark for Josh.

***“The GED was the first thing I had set my mind to do sober and accomplished,” Josh said.***

***But the GED was just the start.***

In January 2011, Josh began attending Carleton University through their Enriched Support Program. By providing extra support, this program makes it possible for people to attend university even if they don't have the grades to get in otherwise.

Josh excelled in university. He made the Dean's list, received awards each year that covered his tuition, earned the highest GPA in the Enriched Support Program, and won Carleton's Provost Scholar Award.

Throughout his time at Carleton, he was also regularly asked to speak. In his second year, he taught a study skills class, and in his

*Story continued on next page*

third year he was a keynote speaker at Carleton's orientation day.

**In 2016, he graduated with an Honours Bachelor's Degree in Psychology.**

Josh says that the training and support he got at Harvest House empowered his success in university. In the months leading up to university, he received training on things like, reading, typing, speaking in public, studying, and notetaking. Throughout his time in university, he continued to live in Harvest House's secondary stage housing and participate in recovery meetings.

**"In my addiction, I got so used to failing that it was almost scary to have hope for the future. One of the most important lessons I learned was that my past did not in any way, shape, or form reflect my potential."**

**-Josh**

## PAYING IT FORWARD

After getting married in 2016, Josh moved to Florida with his wife, Andrea. Today, he is 12 years sober and a huge part of his life involves taking everything he learned at Harvest House and passing it on to others. In 2017, he started a business as a life coach and in 2019 he began teaching remotely at Harvest House.

The two main courses he teaches are Celebrate Recovery and goal-setting. In Celebrate Recovery, Josh uses his experiences of addiction and recovery to teach residents the tools they need to stay sober and change their lives. In goal-setting, he tries to impart the same lesson that made such a difference in his own life: a bright future is possible for every man who walks through the door at Harvest House.

**Josh is living proof that transformation is possible and potential is never limited by the past.**

**YES!** I am interested in supporting Harvest House through easy Monthly Giving!  
*Your participation in our Monthly Giving Program will have a substantial impact on our program.*

I wish to pledge \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per month beginning in the month of \_\_\_\_\_ (all debits occur on the 15th of the month).

**Mailing Address for Tax Receipt:**

\*If any of your information has changed please update that information here.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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City: \_\_\_\_\_ Province: \_\_\_\_\_

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I authorize Harvest House Ministries to debit my:

Bank Account (enclose void cheque)

Visa       Mastercard       Amex

Credit Card No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your cheque payable to Harvest House Ministries and enclose this card to ensure delivery of your tax receipt for donations of \$10 or more. One tax receipt will be issued for the full amount of your monthly donations at the end of the year.

**Charitable Registration No. 132517269RR0001**



NL 2021 Spring Ed

# 2021 CANDLE CAMPAIGN

We are excited to announce that our 2021 Candle Campaign is back! Over this past year we have spent lots of time perfecting our candles and we are excited to launch our new, bright and vibrant selection. We would like to thank everyone who has purchased a candle throughout the past year!

To purchase yours, visit our website: [www.harvesthouse.org/shop/candles](http://www.harvesthouse.org/shop/candles)



## YES!

*I want to make a difference in my community!*

Your investment goes a long way towards saving lives!

\$30    \$50    \$75    \$100    \$250

### Mailing Address for Tax Receipt:

\*If any of your information has changed please update that information here.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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I prefer to contribute \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Cheque/Money Order

Visa    Mastercard    Amex

Credit Card No. \_\_\_\_\_

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I have made a gift to Harvest House in my will.

I would like more information about making a gift to Harvest House in my will.

Please make your cheque payable to Harvest House Ministries and enclose this card to ensure delivery of your tax receipt for donations of \$10 or more.

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