



Our GED teachers (from left to right): **Anne-Marie** (32 years teaching high school math), **Tom** (over 30 years teaching high school), and **Jill** (former professor in the University of Ottawa's faculty of education)

TURNING
"I CAN'T..."
INTO
"I CAN!!"
THROUGH THE
GED PROGRAM

Many men who come to Harvest House never finished having high school. Involvement in the drug and alcohol scene, unstable home lives, frequent histories of trauma, and early struggles in school formed huge obstacles to their success.

By the time they arrive at Harvest House, these men think they are simply unable to succeed in school. The idea of earning a high school diploma feels like an impossibility.

But at Harvest House, they learn that they have much more potential and ability to succeed than they ever imagined.

In 2007, we began helping men prepare to write the GED exam, a high school equivalency test. Over the years, we have been blessed by volunteer teachers with years of experience who have come to teach the men at Harvest House.

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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.



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Jill Ferne, a long-time volunteer and current president of our board, has been a driving force behind the GED program since it began. She explains that it grew out of a conversation about the limited job opportunities Harvest House grads had without a high school diploma. Passing the GED opens doors.

The GED program also helps men at Harvest House overcome the lingering sense of failure they have from negative experiences in school.

"Guys start out thinking that because they've failed in the past, they're always going to fail," Jill says. "Changing that mindset is one of the first things we need to do. Every improvement is celebrated!"

It is hard to express how much it means to earn a high school diploma for the men who come to Harvest House. It is proof that they can succeed. It gives them a sense of accomplishment. It motivates them to pursue their next goals.

Jill describes how rewarding it is to watch the positive change in a person's character when they are successful. "It's the confidence that they've gotten," she says. "It's from passing, but it's also from their understanding that they can learn something. It's so rewarding to see the inner change that happens when they meet a challenge and are successful."

Since 2007, over 120 men have earned their high school equivalency at Harvest House. Several of them have gone on to university, earning Bachelors, Masters, and even Doctorate degrees!

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Anne-Marie teaching.

Today, the GED program continues to thrive thanks to the commitment of volunteer teachers. In 2016, Tom brought his 31 years of teaching experience to Harvest House.

Anne-Marie, our volunteer math teacher, taught high school math for 31 years. After retiring from full-time teaching last year, she feels that the teaching skills she gained have led to her role at Harvest House. And it all started with a phone call and a story.

Anne-Marie supported Harvest House through the calendar campaign for 32 years. Seven years ago, she received a fundraising phone call from a Harvest House resident. He shared his story and mentioned the struggle he was having with the math part of GED. From that moment, she knew what she wanted to do once she retired.

"I love that I can use my experience and what I've learned about how to teach," Anne-Marie says. "I still have something to give and people who want to receive it. There's a real joy that comes from explaining something and seeing the lightbulb go on for them. As a teacher, there's no better feeling."

We are so grateful for supporters like Anne-Marie, Tom, Jill, and countless others who come alongside us to make it possible for addicted men to transform their lives and enter a bright future!

Thank YOU for helping us turn "I CAN'T" into "I CAN!"

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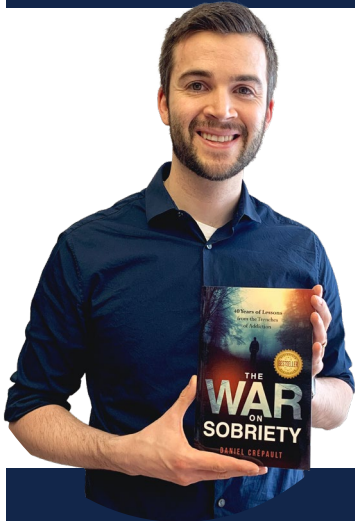
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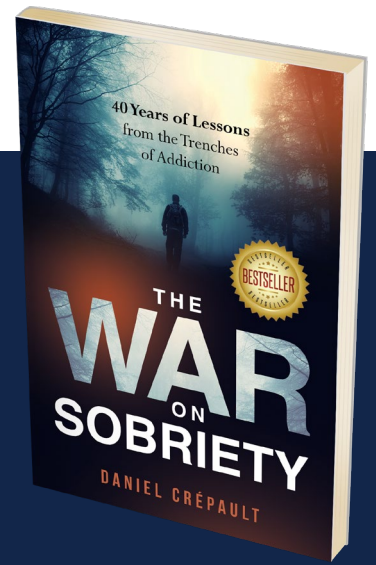
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The War on Sobriety: 40 Years of Lessons from the Trenches of Addiction



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THE AUTHOR: Dr. Dan Crépault came to Harvest House at 17 as a high school dropout who used drugs daily. Today, he is 17 years sober and has a PhD in criminology from the University of Ottawa. Dr. Dan is now Harvest House's Program Director. *The War on Sobriety* is his first book.



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