



the Harvester

A Harvest House Newsletter | Winter 2021

Joseph's Story: Celebrating 35 Years of Sobriety and Success!



Joseph arrived at Harvest House in December 1986 with no hope for the future. Today, he is 35 years sober and has experienced success in his career and personal life.

Throughout his success, he has continued to give back to the men at Harvest House. He has served on our board of directors for over 20 years, taught an evening class for new residents, and been a recovery sponsor for many young men.

It has not been an easy road for Joseph. At 23, he came to Canada from Switzerland to work as a chef. But he was using drugs every day and within three weeks of moving to Canada, he was fired. Things got worse from there. Soon he was not even eating or sleeping.

"I was desperate when I came," Joseph says. "I had nowhere to go. While at Harvest House, I soaked everything in, and change came about little by little. It was very hard."

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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



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For Joseph, a big part of his change involved applying the Harvest House motto: "Find someone you can trust, ask them what to do, and do what you're told".

"Life is an apprenticeship," Joseph says. "You need to find someone to take you under their wing and show you how to do it. And then you need to practice."

After graduating from Harvest House, he became a chef at the Chateau Laurier. In 1995, he moved to Switzerland for two years and transitioned into a different field of work – information technology. He began a career with IBM Canada and moved back to Ottawa, working for IBM for over 20 years and earning the position of Senior IT Specialist. In 2018, he began to work for the Government of Canada as a technical advisor.

Throughout this time, Joseph helped raise his two children, who are now grown and successful in their own fields. In 2001, he met his second wife, Lorraine, and they have been married for over 19 years.

Looking back on his life, Joseph has a difficult time putting into words the transformation he has experienced. Before coming to Harvest House, Joseph's distress led him to suicidal thoughts. But at Harvest House, he discovered hope, healing, and a sense of belonging.

"There's a high probability that I would not have survived given the way I was going," he said. "Harvest House literally saved my life. Spiritually, emotionally, and physically."

Since completing the program, Joseph has remained very involved at Harvest House, serving on the board of directors for over 20 years, teaching evening classes to new residents, and

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Joseph with his wife, Lorraine.

becoming a recovery sponsor and mentor for many young men. He is an excellent example to Harvest House residents of the success they can attain if they remain committed to recovery.

Joseph believes that one of the most important things he learnt at Harvest House was that he is worthy of being loved.

As a long-serving board member, volunteer, and pillar in the Harvest House community, Joseph continues to pass along this message to the men at Harvest House.

"I believe you're never done paying your dues, especially in recovery," he says. "Harvest House is a spiritual hospital and a ministry that's been proven over time. I know this is where I'm supposed to serve and I need

it just as much as the newcomer. By teaching, you get as much out of it as the guy being taught."

Each young man who walks through the doors at Harvest House can turn their lives around and walk into a bright future like Joseph did.

Thank YOU for helping to make stories like Joseph's possible!!

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).

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

Name: _____
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I authorize Harvest House Ministries to debit my:

Bank Account (enclose void cheque)
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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.

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HARVEST HOUSE'S -2022- CALENDAR CAMPAIGN!

There is still time to get your 2022 calendar!

- Price: \$40 (comes with a \$35 charitable tax receipt)
- Free delivery in the Ottawa area
- Browse our 2022 calendars and order online at: www.harvesthouse.org/shop
- Order by phone: 613-521-9114

THANK YOU to everyone who has purchased a calendar over the years! It is **YOUR** support and commitment that have made the calendar campaign successful for over 30 years!

YES!

I want to make a difference in my community!

Your investment goes a long way towards saving lives!

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

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



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