

David

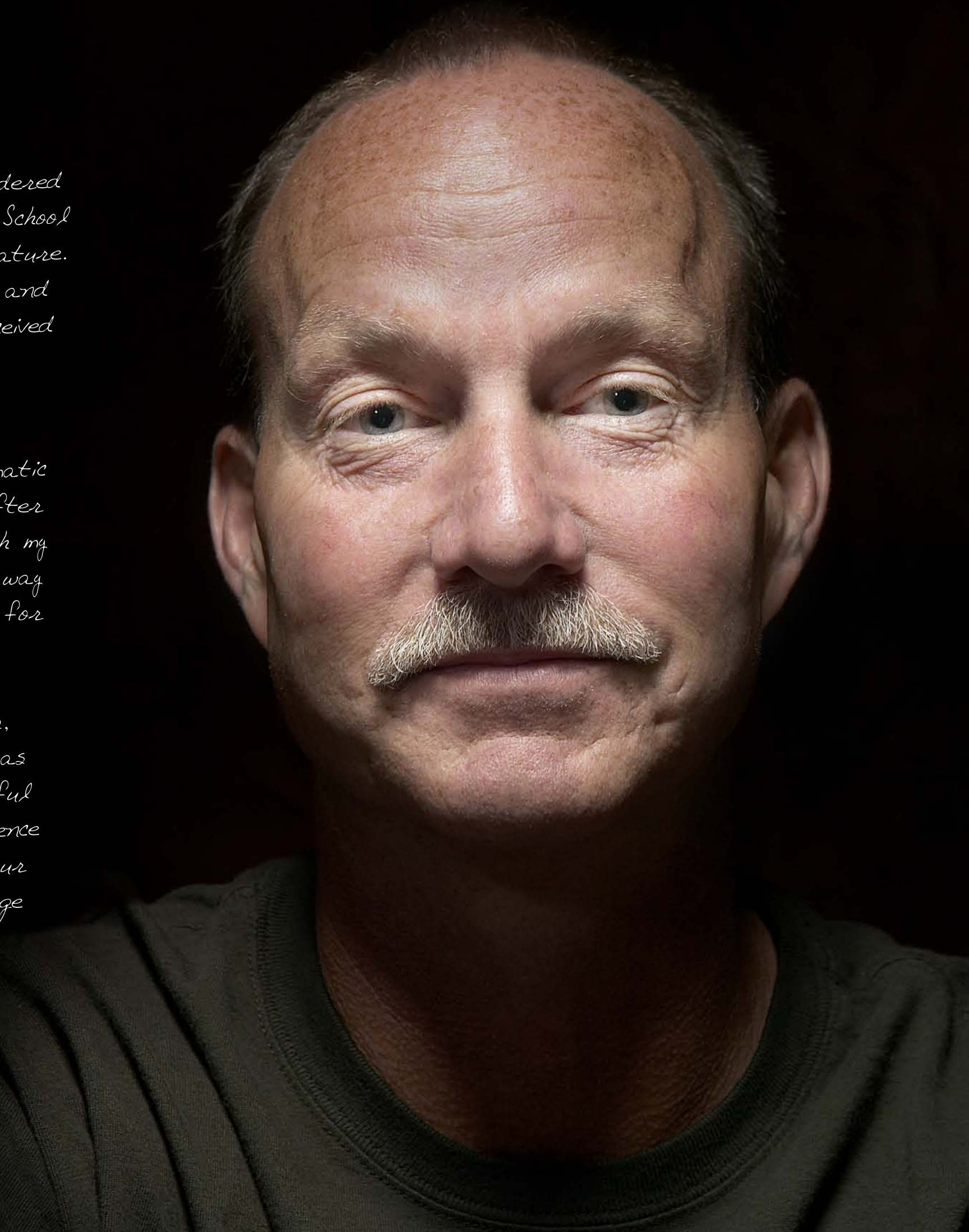
age 45

My alcohol and drug use began at age twelve. It quickly progressed to using on a daily basis. When I was 17 I was court ordered into a residential drug treatment program for 3 months. After High School I joined the Navy thinking the structured environment would help me mature. After a year and a half I was busted for possession of Marijuana and Quaaludes and ordered to participate in a Naval drug rehab. I received an Honorable discharge and moved back home.

In the early 80's cocaine became more prevalent. My cocaine use increased and I was introduced to free-basing. My life began a dramatic downward spiral. Drug and alcohol use caused me to lose jobs and after four years and tens of thousands of dollars my parents spent through my manipulation of their guilt, they were finally convinced that the only way they could help me was by cutting me off. No matter how hard it was for them, they had to let me hit bottom. And hit bottom I did.

My Uncle told me about The Healing Place. After losing everything, alienating my family and friends and being on death's doorstep, I was finally ready. After arriving at The Healing Place, I met a wonderful and welcoming staff and a comprehensive program I had yet to experience in my six previous treatment facilities. I have been here for almost four months and have learned more about myself and what I need to change in myself than all the other programs combined.

David



Jose

age 46

First I would like to say with God's mercy and grace I'm here and able to write this. I thank God for The Healing Place.

I grew up in Reekskill, NY and had a normal life with loving parents and caring brothers. My parents passed in 1983 and I used their death as my excuse to drink and use drugs. I was supposed to attend Jackson University but never made it. The result of me selling drugs lost me 15 years of my freedom.

Today, I am accountable for my actions. I point the finger at me. I now see there are no excuses that can release me from the responsibility of making myself over into what I ought to be. I have stole, lied, cheated and even ate out of dumpsters. I was homeless in the streets of NY for two years wearing the same clothes for weeks. I smelled so bad that the only thing that followed me was flies and gnats. I thank God for not allowing my "yet's" to be "again's."

And with God's mercy and grace, I'm making My dreams bigger than my memories, one day at a time!

An Addict called Jose.

God Bless.

Jose



The Healing Place
A place to heal.

YAHSHADDAI

AGE 28

ALCOHOL IS THE HARDEST THING TO STOP

MARIJUANA IS A MAJOR PART OF MY STORY AND ESCALATED TO COCAINE, ECSTASY, AND PILLS. I LOST MY SCHOLARSHIP TO VCU AND I LOST HOPE BECAUSE I COULDN'T AFFORD TO PAY FOR IT. I FELT LIKE I DIDN'T HAVE THE TIME. I GUESS I STRUGGLED WITH BEING LAZY. I WAS IMPATIENT AND I WANTED INSTANT GRATIFICATION, STREET LIFE MADE THAT POSSIBLE.

"YOU HAVE SO MUCH POTENTIAL" PEOPLE USED TO TELL ME BUT I DID NOT BELIEVE IN MYSELF. THE DISAPPOINTMENT AND HOPELESSNESS GETS SO OVERWHELMING YOU DRINK AND DO DRUGS TO STOP YOUR BRAIN FROM THINKING ABOUT ALL OF MY DISAPPOINTMENT.

THIS IS A FEELING DISEASE. I ALWAYS WANT TO CHANGE THE WAY I FEEL. I HAD SO MUCH POTENTIAL, SO MANY PEOPLE USED TO TELL ME THAT BUT I DID NOT BELIEVE IN MYSELF.

THE HEALING PLACE HELPS ME TO IDENTIFY MY FEELINGS, THE REASONS WHY I USE DRUGS EVEN THOUGH I WANTED TO STOP. I AM ALSO LEARNING RESPONSIBILITY, AND DISCIPLINE WHICH I LACKED COMING HERE AND MOST IMPORTANTLY PERSEVERANCE. I'M LEARNING ABOUT INTEGRITY, TRUST, HONOR, GENEROSITY...THE LIST IS ENDLESS.

I USED TO SAY I DON'T CARE WHAT OTHER PEOPLE THINK BUT I DO...

Yahshaddai W.



The Healing Place®
A place to heal.

Social and Medical Outreach to the Homeless

Ray

age 42

I started drinking and using drugs in the 12th grade. I earned a scholarship to play basketball for Virginia Union University and played 2 C.I.A.A championship games. But my drug and alcohol use elevated after college, I found myself committing crimes for money to buy drugs. I spent 14 years in the Virginia State penal system. After all the lost opportunities, I simply couldn't get a grip. I was beat, I had no answers...Wha could I do?

I heard that The Healing Place was saving and restoring the lives of men just like mine. So I came. And when I got here I couldn't believe my eyes. I saw men praying and hugging one another. I saw men studying and writing about the disease of addiction. So I sat down and listened. I walked with them to class. I attended meeting after meeting until finally I learned what it's going to take for me to stay clean and sober. I've learned to stay clean and sober one day at a time. I learned that I am one of millions of Alcoholics and Addicts all across America. I learned that I am not alone in my struggle. Words cannot explain just how very thankful I am for The Healing Place. God has truly blessed our community with a real solution to the problem.

Now I've completed the program. I am clean and sober by the grace of god and the help of The Healing Place in Richmond, VA. Yes, The Healing Place saved my life and restored my future.

Ray



The Healing Place®
A place to heal.

Joseph

age 28

I am an alcoholic and drug addict.

Because I know I have an actual disease. I am physically incapable of drinking alcohol. When I'd drink I couldn't stop, this place has taught me I have been a self centered person. I have an illness and its called alcoholism. You do not have to be a drunk to be an alcoholic, alcoholism is a pattern of behavior.

If the beer sends you off to wanting drugs then you are an alcoholic. If alcohol initiates the stress then you are an alcoholic.

I want to be the me that was intended to be. I want to spend time with my family. The time that I have left I want to make the most of it. I show them how regretful I am for the emotional damage I have caused in my life. I didn't think I was as bad as some others that were here. I had my own business, never robbed from my family, but I learned I was just as bad.

I will now think before I act.

Joseph

