

# THE PLAIN DEALER

DECEMBER 14, 2007

*Plain Dealer Charities: Holiday Spirit*

## Y-Haven made such a difference

BY STAN DONALDSON

**Name:**

Craig Houpe

**Situation:**

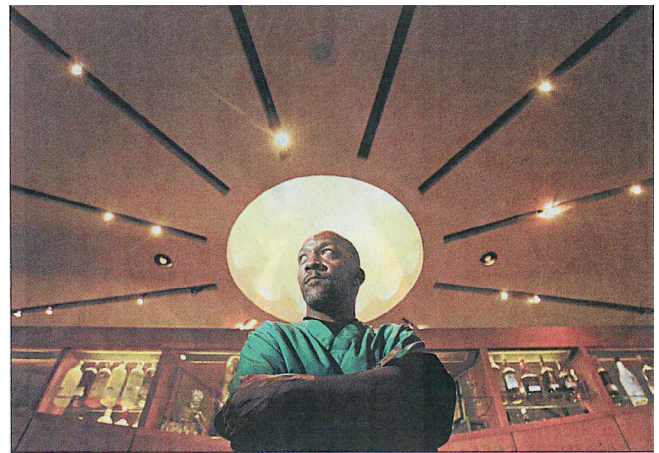
After 27 years of life behind bars, the 47-year-old was released in 2004. He picked up some old habits and became dependent on drugs and alcohol.

**How Y-Haven Transitional Housing helped:**

An old friend encouraged Houpe to participate in a program at Harbor Lights Complex, which referred him to the Y-Haven transitional housing program. He participated in a four-month boot camp to learn to deal with his dependency problems and an additional 10-week program for job training skills, said Y-Haven Executive Director Chip Joseph.

**Today:**

Houpe has been clean for more than two years and works at the Wyndham Hotel as a steward. He gives talks at Cleveland's shelters about recovery and has led a few 12-step intervention meetings. "I'm free from addiction and from the bondage of self. They had enough courage and faith in me and helped me get out of this hole I was in."



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**Craig Houpe, a client with Y-Haven Transitional Housing, has made strides to turn his life around and now works at the Wyndham Cleveland Hotel.**

**You can help:**

To make a secure online donation to Holiday Spirit, go to [Cleveland.com/holidayspirit](http://Cleveland.com/holidayspirit). Or call 216-999-4028 to request a donation form.

*Holiday Spirit is an effort of the Plain Dealer Charities that helps human-service agencies during the holiday season.*