



Vernon J. Davis Jr.

Vernon J. Davis Jr. is a resident in our Men's House. He's an accomplished author who is currently working on several projects that are an extension of his previous works.

Vernon has been writing poetry since the early seventies. He was first inspired by the Langston Hughes poem "Impasse", which started his journey and adventure into the world of poetry and the spoken word. Vernon's first published poem, *Beautiful Black Woman* was published in 1978 in a magazine called *Black Forum*. His creative collection of love poems, *Love Is the Beautiful Black Woman* is his 1st book. Vernon's 2nd book of poetry, *The Emosewa Woman*, was released on Valentine's Day of 2010. He is currently working on his 3rd Book of Poetry, tentatively titled *Her, She, Woman*.

We love Vernon. He's a pleasure to have as part of our family and is an asset to our organization. Vernon is with us, because he wants to stay connected to his recovery family and likes living in a supportive environment. Here's a sample of his work:

Love Is

**the Beautiful Black Woman
Destined to become that, which has
never been
Across the stars, the universe
Her Love is as free as the wind
To grasp Her, to embrace Her, to
even lover Her
Would be loving Love itself
And what more would a man, want
Desire or need
Love is the Beautiful Black woman**

This wonderful and eclectic collection of poetry, by the author of the best-selling volume "Love, Is The Beautiful Black Woman", further illustrates this author's love and admiration for the woman of color. Simply open and experience his second 'love letter' to these Queens...

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THE EMOSEWA WOMAN

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**THE
EMOSEWA
WOMAN**

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Cover of the book.

For more information visit: www.vernonjdavisjr.com

LaTonya Logan:

LaTonya was referred to us by The Urban league. She will admit when she first moved in she wasn't ready for the challenge of change. She came to us straight from the streets. Her previous lifestyle was hard, and she carried a chip on her shoulder. Being a mother and grandmother, she felt in her heart she wanted more out of life, and she wanted to be a positive influence in her adult children and grandchildren lives. The desire to advise

and guide them and hopefully break the cycle that she came from is the core of her motivation.

Over time, LaTonya has grown to accept where she is and has started to put the work in to become the person she's always wanted to be. A recent graduate of the "Dress for Success" program, LaTonya is on her way to obtaining her dream. She's currently working a seasonal job and will soon start the Culinary Training Academy. She realizes now that with a little hard work, determination, and will power, her goals are within her reach. We are blessed to have LaTonya in our home. She loves to cook, and the resident's love eating her food. LaTonya is a perfect example of why Toni's House is needed, and already, we feel she's one of our success stories. There is still a lot of work to do, but she's come a long way in a short period of time. The sky is the limit for Ms. Logan.

When asked to speak at her graduation she said, "When I came into this class I didn't know what to expect. I was negative, I wanted it but I didn't know how to get it. Coming from the other side of the tracks I never saw anything. It's scary for me in this new life. I was taught how to walk, talk, dress, smile and how to live life. Someone saw something in me that I didn't see in myself. A lot of time I wanted to lay down and die, now I want to LIVE. I want to confront my fears. There was a time I didn't even think I was good enough to have the job of ringing the bell that I now have with the Salvation Army. For me it's one day at a time."

One of the directors from the Dress for Success program recommended LaTonya for pro bono reconstructive surgery on her mouth. She had been beaten and suffered permanent facial damage. Because of her hard work and remarkable life change she was blessed with a gift that has changed how she feels about herself. Check back with us for more updates on how LaTonya is progressing.