

Citizen writer wins award for feature on homeless shelter

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Citizen reporter Louisa Taylor.

Photograph by: PAT McGRATH, THE OTTAWA CITIZEN

OTTAWA — A recent *Ottawa Citizen* feature on a homeless shelter for young women has been recognized for media excellence in reporting on social issues.

Citizen senior writer Louisa Taylor received the Joan Gullen Award this week for her story, [A sanctuary from life's storms: Evelyn Horne centre gives young women a safe place to get their lives back on track](#), which appeared in January. Run by the Youth Services Bureau of Ottawa, the Evelyn Horne Shelter for Young Women provides temporary and transitional housing to homeless teens.

Taylor's story and accompanying images by photographer Ashley Fraser opened a window into the intense world of homeless youth.

"Spending time at the shelter, getting to know the staff and the girls there, was like discovering one of the city's hidden gems," says Taylor. "It was an eye-opener to see what huge challenges these young women face, and the warmth and support they get at the shelter."

Gullen is a longtime Ottawa social worker who helped build many social-service organizations during her three decades in the field, and continues to volunteer and serve on local boards. Members of the eastern branch of the Ontario Social Workers Association give two awards in her name to recognize

reporting on important social issues in the region by large and small-circulation print media.

Each award includes a citation and a \$100 donation to charity in the name of each winner. Taylor asked for her donation to go to the YSB's Youth Mental Health Walk-in Clinic.

The *Citizen* has received the award several times in the past, most recently in 2011 for a special project on Ottawa's crack cocaine problem, by writer Chris Cobb.

To read the story and see the photos, visit <http://bit.ly/EvelynHorne>

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