

YOUNG LIFE'S DEVELOPING GLOBAL LEADERS PROGRAM

On a vision trip to Haiti in 2017, Joe Laboon's life goals were radically changed. What had once been a drive for business success gave way to the realization that God could multiply his wealth for a far greater purpose. Joe was inspired to redirect his success towards changing lives by opening doors to education for Young Life leaders in one of the world's poorest countries through Developing Global Leaders (DGL).

He didn't come home and sponsor one student. He sponsored eight! When his first student graduated in 2019, he expanded his commitment. What began as a single act of obedience has grown into a bold vision—to sponsor and graduate 100 DGL students and invest in a generation of leaders who will transform their communities from within.



His students have come to call him "Mr Joe" in the countless thank you notes they have sent him over the years.

Joe Laboon, founder of Georgia Kitchens in Buford, Georgia, dedicated a wall in his showroom to the students he sponsors.

FROM DIAGNOSIS, TO HOPE, TO A DREAM

Joe was diagnosed with ALS this year. Rather than stepping back, he has leaned further in—with a perspective that might surprise you. "This is a gift," he says. "When I see God, he's always smiling."

Every morning, Joe opens a booklet of student photos and prays through each one by name. All 19 of them. He knows their countries, their stories, their futures. Joe's prayers have become some of the greatest gifts he has given to these students.

WATCH JOE'S STORY



"I used to think if I lived to be a hundred, I could see a hundred graduates. I may not see that in this life. But I'll see it in the next life."

— Joe Laboon



Joe's Impact

- 8 DGL graduates
- 2 DGL students on track to graduate in 2026
- 19 DGL students currently sponsored

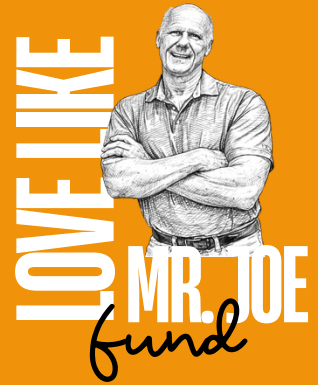
as of April 2026

Joe's 100 Graduate Dream

Initial fund goal: **\$1M** ensures Joe's dream of 100 graduates is realized

Double Joe's Dream

\$2.2M completes Joe's dream and doubles its impact—200 graduates carrying this legacy into communities across the globe.



Will you join Joe? Not to just to honor him. To love like him.

FUND DETAILS

Interest-bearing foundation account to be allocated to students over the next 10-15 years to reach and exceed Joe's Dream.

HOW TO GIVE

Online — Give at giving.younglife.org. Select "Other" for the amount, choose "one time," and designate **Mission Unit 92424 — Love Like Mr. Joe Fund**.

By check — Payable to "Young Life." Mail to: Young Life, PO Box 5186, Boone, IA 50950-0186. Write "92424" in the memo line.

Donor Advised Fund or stock — Young Life Tax ID: 84-0385934. For stock transfers, contact stockgifts@sc.younglife.org or call (719) 381-1979.

Questions?

Contact Andy Morman - Development Director
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*My name is **Jouhline Marie Nerline**. I am a Registered Nurse (RN), the Director of the Sommet Club in Young Life Haiti, and a 2025 graduate of the DGL Young Life Haiti program.*

A few years ago, I had a dream—to become a nurse. It wasn't an easy journey, and I couldn't have done it on my own. That's when DGL and a generous donor stepped into my story. He believed in me and made a commitment to support my four years of education. This was more than financial help—it was an act of love and trust.

My heart is full of gratitude and deep emotion for DGL and my donor, Mr. Joe Laboon. You gave me more than an education—you gave me hope, strength, and the courage to keep moving forward. This gratitude will never leave my heart. Instead, it has become a calling—a motivation for me to serve others with love and dedication, and to honor the sacrifice you made for me.

Jouhline Marie Nerline
DGL Graduate 2025
Université Notre-Dame D'Haiti



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