Blazing a New Path

You Helped Joseph Yusuf Create His Legacy

BY VICTORIA VICKERS

Growing up, Joseph Mohamed Yusuf, a native of Washington D.C., felt the void of so many young people in his neighborhood who had lost their lives to gun violence.

“I didn’t think I was going to make it,” he says.

When he found out he was going to be a father, he was not discouraged. “I wanted to leave something behind, a part of me to carry on.”

His romanticized notion of fatherhood was soon overshadowed by the burden of responsibility. Joseph was a junior in high school when his daughter was born. His lack of motivation was compounded by his failed relationship with his daughter’s mother, and Joseph felt lost.

“At the time I knew I wasn’t financially stable,” he says “My plan was to stay in school, graduate and get a job.”

With the support of his mother and grandmother helping to bridge the gap in

(Continued on page 4)
Sitting “criss-cross applesauce” on the floor with our Scholar’s children is time well spent. When we get our Scholars together, I try to steal a few moments to be with the little ones. It’s a reminder of the long-term investment that Generation Hope is making in our community.

You may not have the opportunity for “criss-cross applesauce” to see the impact that your giving is making. I share this with you because I know it can be hard at times to believe you are really making a difference, but here at Generation Hope, I am fortunate to see every day how your compassion for young parents who are working hard to become college graduates changes families. When you help provide an academic training, gas to get to class each day, or a field trip to a children’s museum, you ensure that a young person who has been through so much knows that they’re not alone.

This is where true change begins — knowing that someone cares for you. It can mean the difference between dropping out of school and walking across the graduation stage. Thank you!

You really do make a difference, one family at a time!

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In June, Generation Hope was named “one of the best” nonprofits in the D.C. region by the Catalogue for Philanthropy. The Catalogue rigorously evaluates nonprofits based on their financial strength and programmatic impact each year and selects a distinct group to share with donors and businesses across the region. Learn more at http://cfp-dc.org/npo/generationhope.
IN HONOR OF THEIR MOTHERS & A LOVE OF EDUCATION

DONOR PROFILE: DAVID & ABI DELEON

By Skye Keene-Babcock

When David DeLeon discovered a fall internship opportunity with Generation Hope last year, it fit more than just an academic or career interest. It was an extension of his and his wife’s personal stories.

David, a graduate student at the University of Maryland, shared Generation Hope with his wife, Abi, and the two were hooked. Both David and Abi’s mothers were young parents in college. Abi’s mother was eventually able to go back to school and complete her degree years later, while David’s mother was not able to do so. Since September 2014, David and Abi have given nearly $50,000 to support and grow Generation Hope’s work.

David was born and raised in San Antonio, Texas, in an environ-

(Continued on page 5)

YOU MADE IT POSSIBLE: OUR FOURTH CLASS OF SCHOLARS IS OUR BIGGEST YET!

MEET OUR 22 NEWEST SCHOLARS

For the first time in Generation Hope’s history, we are providing mentoring and financial support to three teen fathers in college.

We now have Scholars at two new schools: George Washington University and Marymount University.

IN TOTAL, 35 TEEN MOTHERS AND FATHERS ON THEIR WAY TO A COLLEGE DEGREE

The new class brings the total number of children in our program to 42.

11% of new Scholars have lived in foster care at some point.

To read full bios of our 22 new Scholars, please visit www.supportgenerationhope.org/meet-our-scholars.
communication between him and his daughter’s mother, Joseph’s future began taking shape. He became involved in a program sponsored by the Latin American Youth Center (LAYC), which offered a paid internship. Joseph slowly began to see in himself the potential that others had seen all along.

“After many conversations, I began to see that people understood my story and what I was going through and really wanted to help me out,” he explains. “This year has been a complete 360.”

He had previously questioned the value of attending college, but Joseph began to see how it could help foster a career in the music industry. Shortly after he enrolled in classes at the University of the District Of Columbia Community College, one of his mentors at LAYC introduced Joseph to Generation Hope. “My mentor thought I should apply,” Joseph recalls. “I didn’t even know Generation Hope existed.”

Joseph filled out the Generation Hope application and was called in for an interview. The application process went so smoothly, he figured it was too good to be true.

“At first I thought I didn't get it,” Joseph says. Then he got the call. “I was in my mentor’s office, and she handed me the phone. I was wondering who it was. I don’t get calls from strangers at LAYC,” Joseph laughs. “When I got the letter, I hung it up on my wall.”

Now, Joseph is fortifying his legacy with a passion to succeed. His goal is to earn an Associate’s Degree in Liberal Studies and then pursue a bachelor’s degree in audio production. “I’m thinking about American University,” he says.

In the meantime, the full-time student and father is working part time at Americorps as an athletic coach and serves as seasonal program assistant for LAYC’s Youth in Action. Joseph also appreciates the added support he gets from his Generation Hope Sponsor Bill Craig.

“He’s really interested in knowing me, and he’s really good with school-related issues,” says Joseph.

“Joseph is one of my current favorite topics of conversation,” says Bill. “My primary focus is to support his goal of earning a four-year college degree. I'll [help] to guide him through the process of transferring to a four-year institution.”
DAVID & ABI DELEON (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

ment in which poverty and teen pregnancy were common. In high school, he was accepted into an honors program that helped him understand the true benefits of education.

“My advisor pushed me to apply for college,” says David. He went to the University of Texas at Austin and studied education to become an English teacher.

Growing up, Abi’s home life inspired her to work hard and take action on social injustices.

“Lack of quality education in public schools is one of the most pervasive and criminal issues,” says Abi, who has seen firsthand how the quality of education varies greatly on different sides of the District.

Together, David and Abi share a love of learning and teaching. David has been an educator in high schools for the past seven years. He and Abi have held multiple positions as volunteers and staff members with programs that help youth, battered women, and orphans. Their work has taken them into classrooms from Brooklyn to Ecuador. Abi is currently teaching remedial classes at Prince George Community College while David pursues a master’s degree in education.

Finding Generation Hope brought together their passion for education and their belief in the potential of all students.

“Generation Hope is an amazing organization that is making an actual impact. They are there for the long haul,” says Abi.

“Generation Hope is so much more than giving a scholarship to a student. They create opportunities for people who might not have them and help at every point along the way,” says David. “They address all facets of a young parent’s situation, from finding mentors and funding for tuition, to providing clothing, career opportunities, and a true family.”

Abi adds, “Being able to help with the growth and expansion of Generation Hope has been very rewarding.”

Every Step We Take Helps a Young Parent Become a College Graduate!

GENERATION HOPE’S 2015 BENEFIT WALK: MARCH 29TH!

You are invited to STROLL with us on March 29th for Generation Hope’s 2nd annual indoor walk and family day, the “Hope Stroll”! You can walk as an individual (early bird registration is just $25) or as a team. Sponsorships and vendor space are also available! The morning brings together more than 200 individuals and families from across the D.C. metro region to raise funds for teen parents’ educational achievement! Register today at www.supportgenerationhope.org/stroll!

March 29, 2015 @ 10:00 a.m.
Prince George’s Sports & Learning Complex
Walker Registration: $25
Or walk as a team!

Honorary Chair
Maritha Gay of Kaiser Permanente
THANKS TO YOU, WE NEEDED MORE SPACE!

WE HAVE A NEW OFFICE!

You helped us grow our program in July — adding 22 new teen parents on their way to a college degree. This growth meant that we needed more space to house our day-to-day impactful work.

We are so excited to announce that we have moved into a new office, and it is already making a major difference.

"Having the new office space is wonderful. It’s about more than just four walls. It’s a home for our Scholars, a place where they can always come and feel welcome. It’s a physical extension of the environment of support, trust, and family that we have at Generation Hope,” says Program Manager Caroline Griswold Short. ✯

It is our privilege to show you our new office and what we are doing to help teen mothers and fathers become college graduates. You are invited to our “Holiday Office Warming” on Thursday, December 18th from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Please RSVP to Ericka Harley at Ericka@supportgenerationhope.org or 202-656-8705.

This holiday season, help us paint a brighter future for the D.C. area by assisting more teen parents in becoming college graduates! You can even give in honor of someone special. Give the gift of hope!