



3 Kitchens

Volunteer • Seek Employment • Become an Entrepreneur

Doliane Kouba Determined woman finding purpose through food and solidarity

Doliane Kouba

Country
France

Find out more
<https://mariecurry.fr/>



An Unexpected Turn

When Doliane arrived in France in 2007, she came full of hope. With a master's degree from Congo already in hand, she enrolled in a master's program in wealth management in Bordeaux, determined to go far in her studies and career. But soon, immigration realities caught up with her. The loss of her student visa changed everything. Suddenly undocumented and raising two young daughters alone, Doliane found herself stripped of rights and stability in a country she had hoped would offer her a future.

Fighting with Purpose

Faced with hardship, Doliane refused to give in. Despite having no legal status, she threw herself into volunteering—cooking, cleaning, helping at schools, supporting others wherever she could. Her conviction was simple: to stay active, to keep moving, and to give back. In the shadows of society, her commitment quietly grew, fueled by an inner strength and a deep belief in the value of community.

I haven't gotten where I want to be yet, but I'm on my way. And I'm starting to get really interested in what I'm passionate about. I tell these young women what no one told me: learn about the sectors that are hiring, don't waste time chasing impossible paths, and stay open. I'm still dreaming of becoming a pastry chef one day—what matters is not giving up. You move forward one step at a time.





A Turning Point

Her selfless dedication didn't go unnoticed. One day, a manager who had seen her at work pointed her toward a path to legalization. After a long and uncertain journey,

Doliane finally obtained her papers—and with them, a second chance. Today, she works on a permanent contract at Marie Curry, our 3 Kitchens partner, where she was hired thanks to her energy, talent, and reliability. It was through volunteering at church events that she first caught the attention of her employer, turning her invisible labor into a recognized skill.

Rooted in Family and Faith



Throughout her struggles, Doliane drew strength from her mother, a constant source of comfort and faith. In her lowest moments, it was her mother's unwavering belief in her that helped her hold on.

Today, Doliane still finds joy and meaning in small acts of care—especially through baking. Cakes are her love language, often shared with others at birthdays and community gatherings. Her dream is to one day train as a professional pastry chef, and she's slowly laying the foundation for this ambition.

Giving Back, Moving Forward

Now, Doliane serves as a mentor to many young women who arrive in France with hopes like hers. She tells them the truth—not to discourage, but to guide them through a system she had to learn the hard way. Thanks to her advice, some have already secured scholarships or stable jobs in the healthcare sector. Her experience has turned into a resource for others, a roadmap shaped by compassion and realism.

Want to read other success stories ? Visit our website :

<https://3kitchens.eu/success-stories/>



Co-funded by
the European Union

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor EACEA can be held responsible for them