

IMPACT REPORT

Families are building wealth; women and girls are safer. Thank you so much for being a part of this work!



Nelia Lifted Her Family Out of Extreme Poverty

"The only way for me to go now is forward."

More than 95% of families graduate from the Family Graduation Program!

As a child, Nelia's parents couldn't afford to take care of her, so they sent her away to live in another household. As she got older, she went to live with another family.

Nelia recalls that she wasn't mistreated – until she became pregnant and the family kicked her out. She began moving from house to house with different families as her own family grew.

Her husband spent weeks away making charcoal to sell. There wasn't always enough for food and water and there was never enough to pay for the children's school.

The couple accrued debts they had no hope of paying.

When Nelia's step-mother cast her and the children out of her house, Nelia hit bottom.

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Thank you for making this life-changing work possible!

OVERCOMING POVERTY

Nelia Lifts Her Family Out of Extreme Poverty

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The only thing she could do was make a lean-to on some family land and take shelter. Every time it rained, they got soaked. And when it was dry, they didn't have water to drink or wash with. "I was completely humiliated," she said.

Then a representative of Beyond Borders' Family Graduation Program came to meet with Nelia. They asked her questions about the family's living situation and invited her to join the program.

"At first, I didn't know what to think," Nelia said. "People interviewed me before, but they didn't do anything. Beyond Borders was different. They gave me goats and a donkey. They gave me materials to build a solid house. Every Monday my case worker came to check in on us. The way they spoke with us made me look forward to their visits."

With support, Nelia started a garden where she grows nutritious vegetables for her family. She participated in money management training and now she has a savings account with several hundred dollars in it. "And I don't have to worry about debt anymore. At any time, if I can't pay a bill, I can sell one of my goats and resolve the issue," Nelia said. Today she and her husband are able to pay school fees for all of their children.

"I thank everyone who helps people in need. Life just isn't the same for me. The only way for me to go now is forward," Nelia said.

Your support makes partnerships like the Family Graduation Program possible. To date 561 families have escaped extreme poverty as part of the program. Thank you for your generosity and your solidarity with families like Nelia's.



Nelia moving some of her goats to another grassy location to graze



ADVOCACY

Marching for Democracy



Protestors gather in front of the White House for the October 9th demonstration which was endorsed by more than 100 non-profit, faith-based, and diaspora organizations

Beyond Borders helped organize a march in Washington D.C. The protest called on U.S. policy makers to let Haitians choose their own leaders.

Some of you reading this were there. Thank you for standing in solidarity with the Haitian people who are calling for a peaceful, democratic, Haitian-led solution to the country's multiple crises.

For more information and ongoing advocacy opportunities, visit www.HaitiResponseCoalition.org

PREVENTING VIOLENCE

Women and Girls are Twice as Safe

Beyond Borders has more evidence that our grassroots approach to preventing violence against women and girls in Haiti works. The Global Women's Institute just released the results of a study on the impact of Beyond Borders' Rethinking Power program.

The study found that the level of past year physical and sexual partner violence against women was cut in half for the entire community—reducing from 23% to 12%. These numbers represent thousands of women who are now able to live their lives free of partner violence.

Beyond Borders staff based in Jacmel also created a complementary program to address the unique violence experienced by people living with disabilities. The research found this program called *Safe and Capable* to also be effective at preventing violence against women and girls with disabilities. In fact, at the community level, there was a 35% decrease in violence (from 23% to 15%) against women and girls living with disabilities.

The decrease in violence experienced by both groups is even more significant because participants reported higher rates of insecurity due to the combined political and economic crises in Haiti during the same period.

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Beyond Borders staff members who developed 'Safe and Capable'

Physical and sexual partner violence against women was cut in half!



With encouragement, a Girls' Club member practices public speaking

A participant in a Rethinking Power Girls' Club who is living with a physical disability said, "Before coming to the girls' group, I really lacked confidence. Now, thanks to the education I've received at my girls' group, I've come to understand that I am a person just like everyone else, and the disability doesn't remove any of my value as a human being. I'm no longer ashamed to request support."

By launching on-going community wide dialogue about balancing power, significant advancements have been made despite the exceptionally stressful environment in Haiti.

Your generous support combined with grants from institutions including the UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women helped make these advancements possible.

Thank you for helping women and girls, including those living with disabilities, live safer lives.

Point your phone's camera at this QR code to access more results from the Global Women's Institute's study on Beyond Borders' Rethinking Power program.



Join the movement today! **READ MORE...**

Blessed by a Deep Sense of Hope for Haiti... And the World

Carol Duncan did not plan on hosting four Beyond Borders-themed events this year or going on what she considers a pilgrimage to see Beyond Borders' work in Haiti. She is, after all, a self-described "huge introvert."

Carol started by hosting a Virtual Tour for her faith community. "I was inspired by the grassroots aspect of Beyond Borders' work," Carol said.

A Virtual Tour is an online event hosted by a Beyond Borders supporter like you in which guests meet three community leaders in Haiti. A couple dozen people attended Carol's first tour, which she held during a regularly scheduled church meeting.

Since a couple of Carol's church connections couldn't make that tour, she contacted Beyond Borders' staff member, Limeteze Pierre-Gilles, SSND, to schedule another. Carol realized that she could invite anyone with whom she felt comfortable sharing her passion for Beyond Borders' mission. With that in mind, she invited members of her short story group too.

Almost everyone came. Carol even scheduled a third event, adding to her guest list contacts she met as part of a local social justice group.

Then, Carol took a leap and joined seven others on a Beyond Borders' trip to Haiti's Lagonav Island.

"I was blown away by what staff and volunteers on the ground are accomplishing and how interconnected all the different initiatives are," Carol said.

"I felt blessed by a deep sense of hope, not just for Haiti, but for the world."

Upon arriving home, Carol couldn't wait to host her third tour and offer a presentation to her church about her experience. She knew that sharing about the work she supports through Beyond Borders would spread the gift of hope. Thank you to all Beyond Borders supporters who join hands with our brothers and sisters in Haiti to end violence, poverty, and abuse.



Carol (bottom left) pictured here with her roommate and host family in Haiti

More Ways to Get Involved

Join a Virtual Tour of Haiti– You'll be introduced to three extraordinary women and hear their stories. Tours are 45 minutes long and all you need is a good internet connection. Get a sneak peek and sign-up at <https://give.beyondborders.net/tour/>

Host a Virtual Tour – It's easy, fun, and you'll help expand the number of people who know about Beyond Borders. Contact Limeteze Pierre-Gilles, SSND, to learn more: (443) 226-7934, l.pierre-gilles@beyondborders.net.

Join the Leadership Circle – You'll help build a foundation of stable, long-term funding for Beyond Borders over the next five years. To learn more contact Brian Stevens: (305) 450-2561, b.stevens@beyondborders.net