

“Women Used to Think They Were Nothing Without a Man.”

Testimonies of Change From Rethinking Power

Jacmel, Haiti –

In 2010, Beyond Borders’ launched Rethinking Power to prevent violence against women and girls in five communities in southeastern Haiti.

Today, Rethinking Power programming has reached 25 urban and rural communities throughout Haiti. These communities are becoming places where the voices of women and girls are heard and violence against them is no longer tolerated.

This spring’s *Girl Power Haiti!* campaign will help Beyond Borders expand the Rethinking Power program to even more communities where we are already working.

These testimonies tell of the kind of community-level and personal transformation that is taking place thanks to the work of Rethinking Power.



Rethinking Power has trained thousands of grassroots leaders like these since its launch in 2010. This spring’s Girl Power Haiti! campaign will help expand the program to more communities.

ROSELINE PANTALEON

Domestic violence counselor from the community of Kapwouj



“In this community, women used to think they were nothing without a man. Sexual and physical violence against women and girls was common,

and husbands routinely beat their wives. Now, thanks to Rethinking Power and other response organizations, incidents of violence and rape in Kapwouj have dropped dramatically, women and girls are no longer afraid to seek help, women have come to see that their worth isn’t conditional, and men have learned that women have the same rights as men. There’s more work to be done here so that everyone understands what it means to prevent violence against women, but it’s a pleasure to see the change that’s happened already because of Rethinking Power.”

MRS. DUVERT HERMANCE

Wife of a pastor in the community of Jacmel

“I am a mother of 10 children. I didn’t use violence when I raised them, but I also didn’t understand the concept of balancing power between women and men. In fact, in my church women would come forward with complaints of abuse: their husbands hit them, they had swollen eyes – and I didn’t know what to do. In the neighborhood where I live, I heard the stories of women and

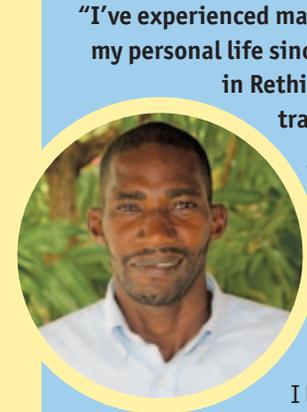
“We aren’t afraid anymore to speak up if abuse happens, and violence against women in our community is down because of it.”

– Mrs. Duvert Hermance

girls who were suffering sexual and physical abuse from a spouse, a parent, or a teacher, and it’s only after the presence of Rethinking Power in our community that all of us now know how to respond. We aren’t afraid anymore to speak up if abuse happens, and violence against women in our community is down because of it. The truth is out now. And when I can’t speak up on my own, I can call on others to come and help me.”

RICHARD SINOL

Teacher and pastor of a church in the community of Meno



“I’ve experienced many changes in my personal life since I took part in Rethinking Power training. I used to yell at children and hit both my own kids and my students. Now, I can’t even remember the last time I laid a hand on

any child. As a church leader, I tell people, Rethinking Power has changed the way my wife and I interact. We make decisions about managing our household together now. And I’ve seen the changes in my community too. Men don’t beat their wives like they used to, and instances of rape are rare. Women participate in community meetings and aren’t afraid to speak up. They know they have the right to be full participants in the community. Husbands and wives attend Rethinking Power trainings together. Meno is a changed community since Rethinking Power began.” ✕