



BEYOND BORDERS



**ANNUAL
REPORT
2025**

Dear Friends and Partners,

Our **commitment to grassroots movements** remains our anchor, even as violence and economic collapse in Haiti put families at greater risk. Now more than ever, Beyond Borders' work to overcome poverty, prevent abuse, and develop leaders is vital.

The achievements in this Annual Report reflect the resourcefulness and grit of our staff and movement leaders. They opened dialogue on long-silenced issues, mobilized neighbors to action, and built networks of care that help families thrive.



This year, we saw **the rise of leaders**. Adult survivors of child slavery organized networks, led awareness campaigns, and freed children from the servitude they once endured. Girls reclaimed their power as their communities challenged harmful gender norms and embraced their leadership. By investing in the leadership potential of those most affected by injustice, we reject the idea that their life history or society's limits define them. Please join us in celebrating these visionary leaders who are uniting their voices to drive lasting change in their communities.

When movements and communities share leadership, they grow stronger, ensuring marginalized voices are heard and the collective is enriched by their contributions.

The power of shared leadership has been a defining value since our founding. **This year, we deepened that commitment by establishing a co-leadership model**—another step in living out the values that have guided Beyond Borders from the beginning.

Among the qualities we have most admired in our co-founder, David Diggs, who transitioned from leadership this year after 32 years of service, is his dedication to shared leadership and justice. With profound respect and gratitude, **we celebrate David's life's work** and thank him for the strong, flexible foundation he laid—one that continues to grow and evolve. It is an honor to build from his legacy.

As we co-lead Beyond Borders forward, we do so with the shared conviction—one that David would wholeheartedly affirm—that **our True North lies with the movement leaders and with the families and communities impacted by their courage and hard work**. Our commitment to them—and to you—is to ensure that every resource fuels their development as leaders, their work to mobilize their neighbors to action, and the community care networks they are building—the lifelines that will safeguard their most vulnerable for years to come.

Thank you for trusting in our shared vision and in our leadership. Your partnership is crucial, and **none of this would be possible without you**. Your commitment to this work and to the people of Haiti—through your time, advocacy, prayers, and financial support—continues to inspire and sustain us.

In Community,

Coleen Hedglin and Smith Maxime
Co-Executive Directors
November 2025

Breaking the Silence

Ending Child Slavery

Restavèk

The trafficking of children is not unique to Haiti. All over the world, countries (including the U.S.) are grappling with epidemics of child exploitation and abuse. In Haiti, child trafficking most commonly takes the form of domestic servitude (restavèk), affecting an estimated one in ten children. Deep poverty forces parents to relinquish children in the hope they will be fed and educated. Restavèk endures because of this poverty, along with limited access to schooling, weak local protection systems, and the social inequalities that shape these conditions—not because communities accept it. Perhaps the greatest barrier to ending the practice is silence.

A Movement Rooted in the Power of Community

Leaders trained, organized, and supported by Beyond Borders, including adult survivors of restavèk, are breaking this silence. Through storytelling, dialogue and community mobilization, neighbors are finding the courage to denounce the practice. They are harnessing their collective power to safeguard their children.

By developing leaders, mobilizing neighbors, and helping families escape extreme poverty, Beyond Borders and its partners are proving child slavery can end—community by community, family by family, child by child.



IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

- **12** children were freed from domestic servitude.
- **58** children were made safe when activists disrupted violence.
- **200+** children received services: education, mental health, health care, and/or legal aid.
- **10,000+** people were sensitized to the dangers of child slavery.
- **94** child protection brigades and survivor groups galvanized across **15** networks.
- **479** adult survivors joined group wellness sessions for healing and mutual support.
- **49** survivors received one-on-one psychological support.
- **338** survivors joined savings and loan groups.

“

Through training, I began to understand myself, recognize the abuse I suffered, and start to heal. Now, as President, I'm proud to help others. My goal is to make sure no child in our community suffers as I did.”

— Lisiana Vergée, Survivor Network President, Lagonav Island

IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

- **151** out-of-school children returned to classrooms
- **94** students at risk were supported to stay in school
- **13** education networks united **200** schools
- **133** school inspections were conducted by School District personnel (a dramatic increase due to Beyond Borders' support).
- **363** teachers trained



The Right to Learn

Universal Access to Quality Education



Thanks to this partnership, the School District Bureau is more present in rural communities, has stronger oversight of local schools, and now manages a functioning database—improving everything from school supervision to data management. Children on Lagonav have a better chance at a quality education.”

— Francois Fodnel, Inspector, School District Bureau, Lagonav Island

Power in Partnership: Stewarding Education for All

On Lagonav Island, parents, teachers, and local leaders are reimagining what school can be — a place where learning is joyful and every child goes to school, where classrooms nurture leaders and fortify communities against exploitation. This is education as a community movement: not a service delivered to people, but a public good stewarded by them.

With support from Beyond Borders, thirteen education networks united educators, parents, community leaders, and officials from the Lagonav School District Bureau to build an island-wide safety net ensuring every child's right to learn. Through this collaboration, an education database was created to track enrollment, attendance, and school-quality indicators in real time — so schools, inspectors, and communities can see where support is needed. Beyond Borders also equipped the Bureau with resources, enabling inspectors to reach far more schools — many for the first time.

Better Teaching, Brighter Learning

Beyond Borders' partner organization, the Matènwa Community Learning Center (MCLC), delivered its nationally recognized teacher training, grounded in decades of experience in native-language, child-centered, nonviolent teaching. Through its Institute for Learning, MCLC equipped teachers to spark curiosity, dialogue, and critical thinking, and to guide classrooms with encouragement instead of punishment. MCLC's approach is creating safer, more engaging schools where children thrive. Rising exam pass rates and improved teacher practices confirm that quality, engaging education leads to real learning success.

Rethinking Power

Preventing Violence Against Women and Girls

Violence is Preventable

In Haiti, Beyond Borders is equipping leaders to prevent violence—before it happens. Women and girls, together with men and boys, are dismantling harmful norms, transforming how power, gender, and relationships are understood.

Our methodologies address the root cause of violence: power imbalance. Using grassroots strategies, communities shift this balance, raising awareness, building support, and mobilizing action. *SASA! Together* helps communities prevent violence against women. *Power to Girls* builds girls' safety, confidence, and agency, while fostering communities that welcome their voice. *Safe and Capable* strengthens disability-inclusive prevention and response systems.

Shifting Power, Strengthening Communities

This year, our three-year community mobilization cycle reached a milestone: four new advocacy committees — including two formed by Girls' Clubs — took the lead. After specialized training in prevention, protection, and empowerment, they are now driving their own community change, not waiting for outside experts.

At the same time, we paired violence prevention with economic power. Our new economic module flipped gender norms — moving from dependence on men's income to female competence, confidence, and leadership in the local economy. Older adolescent girls learned trades, built financial skills, and received mentorship. They formed business groups, launched new ventures, and became role models.

Communities are noticing: households are more equal. Girls' voices are respected. Daily life feels safer.

What started as facilitated conversations is now a locally led movement — where women and girls can live free from violence, their leadership is valued, and entire communities rise because of it.



IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

- **936** neighbors learned how to prevent violence — not look away from it.
- **4** advocacy committees are now leading change.
- **172** teen girls turned skills into income through **28** business groups.
- **860** community members sensitized through Girls' Clubs' campaigns.
- **28** groups comprising **172** girls launched successful businesses.
- **5** organizations across Haiti learned our prevention approach.



Now, my mother and father live without violence; there are no insults in the home anymore, there is respect, love. They have started to balance their power well... now there is joy in our family."

— Young woman, Lamontay, Southeast Department

IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

- **160** families now have stable livelihoods, secure homes and toilets, potable water, and improved sanitation.
- **160** families grew home gardens, improved nutrition, and used rainwater catchment systems to navigate water shortages.
- **8,471** home visits were conducted.
- **12** Village Savings and Loan Associations collectively saved 890,900 gourdes (\$6,800 USD).
- **160** families' school-aged children are attending school.

“

We used to dig a hole in the ground to sleep in. Today, we live in a real house with three rooms, have livestock, savings, and dignity.”

— Edeline Pierre, Family Graduation participant

The Right to Thrive

Dignified Work and Sustainable Livelihoods

From Survival to Stability

In rural Haiti, extreme poverty forces families into heart-wrenching choices — skipping meals, or sleeping outdoors, or sending a child into domestic servitude. Beyond Borders believes no parent should ever face such decisions.

The **Family Graduation Program** changes that. Beyond Borders and partner AAPLAG (Asosyasyon Animatè Peyizan Lagonav - Association of Farmer Organizers of Lagonav) worked with Lagonav communities over the past two years to identify and accompany 160 families to escape extreme poverty. Families received initial cash transfers to stabilize households, then received productive assets, hands-on training, and personalized coaching to build lasting livelihoods. Home visits provided support as families learned to grow food, harvest rainwater, save money, and invest together. What began as survival became stability, and then strength.

This progress extended beyond these participating 160 families: more than 800 of their neighbors attended workshops on safe water, sanitation, health, and financial literacy.

Breaking the Cycle of Poverty

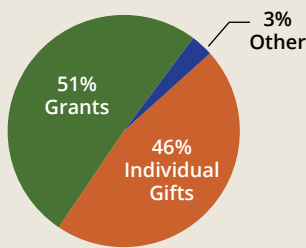
By the program's end, 100% of participating families graduated from extreme poverty. They moved from hunger and unsafe housing to eating multiple meals a day, living in safe, dignified housing, bringing their children home from servitude, and having a steady income and renewed hope. Parents who once struggled to feed their families now run small businesses, raise livestock, and send their children — not into servitude, but to school.



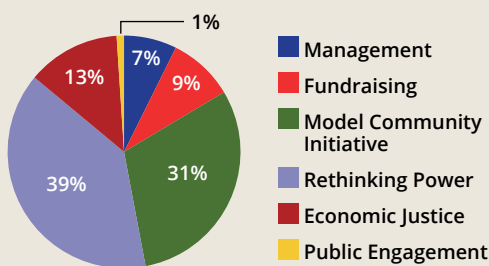
Financials

1 July 2024 through 30 June 2025

Revenue	
Individual Gifts	\$1,234,435
Grants	\$1,357,729
Other	\$83,776
Total Revenue	\$2,675,940



Expenditures	
Management	\$196,245
Fundraising	\$243,082
Model Community Initiative	\$818,235
Rethinking Power	\$1,043,350
Economic Justice	\$345,589
Public Engagement	\$27,421
Total Expenses	\$2,673,923



As a registered 501(c)(3) (EIN: 23-2713126), Beyond Borders ensures accountability through rigorous internal oversight and annual Form 990 filings. Our financials are managed by our Finance Director, Co-Executive Directors, and Board Finance Committee, a commitment validated by high transparency and governance ratings from third-party evaluators. Audited financial statements are available upon request.



Our Donors

Individual Donors

Beyond Borders’ mission is powered by the collective generosity of our supporters. We are profoundly grateful for every supporter whose gifts fuel our programs daily. We give special recognition to those individuals with recurring commitments: Leadership Circle Members, Family Sponsors, and Monthly Sustainers. Your dedication provides the resource consistency needed to plan ahead and scale community-led transformation effectively. Your trust is our greatest asset.

Grant Donors

We also extend our gratitude to these grant donors who made possible the achievements outlined in this annual report. We deeply value those whose multi-year commitments—rooted in a shared foundation of purpose—support the long-term viability of our vital work.

- The American Jewish World Service

The Ansara Family Fund

Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church

Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace

The European Union

The Flora Family Foundation

The Gordon and Marjorie Osborne Foundation
- The Imago Dei Fund

School Sisters Of Notre Dame, Atlantic Midwest Province (including through a grant from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation)

United Methodist Committee on Relief

The Vista Hermosa Foundation

Wellspring Philanthropic Fund

“

For the last 31 years, in the midst of my seasons of personal pain and of my daily empathy for the suffering of our world, I have welcomed one consistently uplifting source of stories of hope and liberation: Beyond Borders.”

— Mary Ann Holtz, St. Petersburg, FL, Supporter, Volunteer, Ally

“

I was seeing a new world being born.”

— Carol Duncan, Philadelphia, PA, Supporter, Volunteer, Ally, following a visit to Beyond Borders’ partner communities on Lagonav Island

“

Given the high rate of violence in our world, the damage to society and individuals from child abuse and domestic violence, and how difficult it is to change behavior, it’s exciting to me to help fund a successful violence reduction program operating in pockets of rural Haiti but potentially applicable worldwide.”

— Beth Meshke, Sumner, WA, Supporter, Volunteer, Ally



Beyond Borders places the dignity and respect of human rights at the center of all its interventions as its core focus."

— Leroy Wood Joseph,
Survivors Network Program
Officer, Lagonav Island



Beyond Borders' work speaks for itself."

— Marie Madeleine Pierre
Georges, Rethinking Power
Program Coordinator, Jacmel



Beyond Borders provides tools for people to stand up on their own two feet, and it is based on values like solidarity, transparency."

— Homène Felix, Rethinking
Power Office Cook/
Housekeeper, Jacmel



Our Vision

Beyond Borders works to overcome poverty, prevent violence and abuse, and develop leaders in Haiti.

We see in Haiti the seed for a new world, where:

- People overcome great challenges by learning to question, dream, and act together.
- Women and men find more power by balancing power equally.
- Families and communities thrive on foundations of trust and mutual respect.
- Diversity is seen as a sign of strength.
- All children grow up surrounded by people who love, nurture, and educate them.
- We all find deeper meaning in our lives by coming to value truth over comfort, sharing over having, and justice over personal gain.

Our Mission

Beyond Borders helps people build movements to liberate themselves from oppression and isolation. In Haiti and the United States, we are bringing people together for just and lasting change. We support movements in Haiti to:

- End child servitude.
- Guarantee universal access to quality education.
- Prevent violence against women and girls.
- Replace systems that oppress the poor with systems that support dignified work and sustainable livelihoods.

BEYOND BORDERS
✱ ✱ ✱ ✱ ✱ ✱ ✱ ✱ ✱ ✱

PO Box 2132, Norristown, PA 19404
610-277-5045 • mail@beyondborders.net
www.beyondborders.net