

What's Happening in Haiti Now: Beyond Borders Forum

On Wednesday September 30 at 7 p.m., Beyond Borders Co-Chair Coleen Hedglin will visit St. Martin's to eat supper with us and share the work of her organization. We will view the brand-new documentary that captures the heart of Beyond Borders' movements to overcome poverty, prevent violence and develop leaders in Haiti.

Shot in June during a stretch of intense heat (and months since the last rainfall), the short film tells the story of our interwoven programming through the personal lens of one woman's life and lived experience.

During production, Freda Cathéus, Co-Coordinator for the Movement to End Child Servitude, shared a powerful reflection that is featured in the film. Freda says:

"The partnership between the Neighborhood Survivors Groups and the Child Protection Brigades has become incredibly strong. It has strengthened entire communities and inspired more people to speak out against the abuse of children. Even when someone has never participated in our child rights training, if a member of a Neighborhood Survivors Group or Child Protection Brigade learns that a child is being abused, they report it. I think that's what makes this work so important. People are looking out for one another and holding each other accountable. As a result, children have a greater chance to grow up in a safe environment, free from violence, abuse, and the suffering of domestic servitude."

Child exploitation thrives in isolation and silence, but through our partnership, local leaders are replacing that isolation with active networks of care, vigilance, and mutual accountability.