



We See

What We See Changes Who We Are

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Interview with U.S. Ambassador Hardt

By WITNESS Youth Staff

We were so excited to interview U.S. Ambassador Hardt. We felt very special sharing a happy time with him and we asked him many questions about his likes, dislikes and lifestyle. We also learned about his childhood. He told us so many secret things that we felt like we were family!

The Ambassador grew up in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He loved biking all day with his friends, even though his friends weren't allowed to stay out late, and he was a big fan of baseball and softball. He also spent a lot of time reading novels.

When you look at Ambassador Hardt's childhood, you can see why he grew up to be a diplomat. As a child, he travelled across the country with his parents, and he has many fun and exciting memories. He also enjoyed studying history and was concerned about the world. Finally, his favourite movie character was James Bond, someone who never gives up, and who also gets to travel to many different countries. Even as an adult, travelling to different countries brings him great happiness, as does interacting with different people. Travel, history, world affairs, meeting with people: it all adds up to becoming an ambassador!

As part of his job, the Ambassador gets to be on television. He told us the story of the first time this happened. He was in Barbados, and he had to defend the U.S. Embassy's point of view on a controversial issue relating to drug trafficking. Although he had to argue with two people who were very strongly against his point of view, this turned out to be a good thing. He had to focus so hard on saying the right thing, and not saying something he shouldn't, that he didn't have time to think about being nervous! Since then, he said that even though he is nervous every time he has to speak in public, it's a "good" kind of nervousness because "It keeps you sharper, you want to do your best."

When Ambassador Hardt talks about his family, you can tell that his family is very important to him. Before he met his wife at the age of seventeen, he had no interest in a serious relationship with anyone. His wife, and later on, his sons, have been with him

through all his ups and downs. Their support and confidence in him have played a big part in his success. Watching his sons grow has given him great happiness.

On a lighter note, although the Ambassador loves his job and his family, he said that eating good food also makes him happy. He enjoys anything sweet and delicious, and he likes to make cookies and apple pie.

When we asked Ambassador Hardt why he wanted his job, he explained that he is honoured to represent the U.S. and to help the U.S. and Guyana form a stronger bond. His favourite place in Guyana is Kaieteur Falls, because "it's a very beautiful view of nature and very majestic."

When we asked why he supports WITNESS Project, Ambassador Hardt said that he was impacted by WITNESS Project's founder Margaret Clemons' passion. "So much in life comes from passion," he explained. "You really have to care about what you're doing and believe in it . . . and when you find someone who is passionate about something you try to help them as best as you can."

Ambassador Hardt said he would "Absolutely, 100%" recommend that people get involved in WITNESS Project. He believes that WITNESS Project can "have a great impact on Guyana by making violence visible through pictures, posters, and the written word."

He said, "I would certainly encourage anybody who would like to get involved with WITNESS directly or with any aspect of combating domestic violence to do so because it's a national challenge that requires everybody to get involved; from young people to older people to male, female, old and young. You're helping to draw that interest and build that awareness. And hopefully encouraging more and more people to take action to get that message across that this [violence] is just not acceptable."

It was nice having the U.S. Ambassador there with the WITNESS team, hearing him tell us about his life style and many things we didn't know about him. It was our pleasure to interview him. It felt like he was part of our family, telling us a bedtime story.

The Person I Love a Lot

By WITNESS Youth Staff

The person I love a lot is my aunt. She is like a mother to me. She is my mother! I grew up with her, and from infancy she took good care of me.

My parents separated when I was at a tender age and ever since it has been my auntie who took care of me, with my father sometimes offering financial support. My father remarried so I have a step-mother, but I've never seen her, since I don't know where she lives, and that makes me sad. As for my dad, I only see him on the weekends; maybe that's because he works. As for my mother, she has a number of children but not all of

them are living with her.

However, the thought of my auntie makes me happy; she's a very good and fun person. She takes me places. We even went to the National Park for a social gathering and I saw people singing on a stage. My aunt likes to go on the computer with me to play games and that is what I like best about her; she also never fails to help me with my school work, especially Math. She is a fun person to be around.

She moved and I know I will see her again soon. She texts and calls me very often. So if there's one person I love a lot, it's my aunt.

Alone with Tears

By WITNESS Youth Staff

Aaron and Rebecca are orphans whose mother passed when they were only three and five years old. They live with their grandmother who drinks and smokes and hits them for no good reason. "You no good, stupid, hard head dog. Yall only crossin' my life. Yall is no use to me. Me nah know why yall nah just dead," are the words they have to hear every day.

One day Rebecca was sitting on the top of

the stairs when her grandmother came out and gave her one hard slap to go do something. It was so hard that Rebecca fell all the way down the steps.

This upset me so much. How could she be so cold hearted? I just lost all respect I ever had for her when she did that. It hurt me a lot. I felt nothing but hatred for her; it made me hate her so much.

WITNESS Project Youth Reporters

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- Krissy Morgan
- Kimberly Morgan
- Kaesia Munroe
- Nakasi Noel
- Marcel Persaud
- Rajendra Ramesh
- Devi Sankar
- Anthony Vishnu

Kaieteur Falls' Beauty

By WITNESS Youth Staff

The first view of it is very beautiful. The water makes all the bushes by its side tremble. As you get closer and closer to this waterfall, the water calls, banging on the rocks.

The rainbow that stands in front of the waterfall comes and goes and the mist rises like smoke. Just stand there on the cliff and watch the water as it flows. A very frightening and exciting thing to do is to lie down and

look over the edge of the cliff, staring at the great falls for a minute or two.

The jungle that you have to walk through to get to these falls is filled with many strange creatures and plants that I have no knowledge of at all. So I urge you, Guyanese and others from around the world, to come and visit Guyana's treasure, the majestic Kaieteur Falls.

"What we see changes who we are" JR

Are you a witness or victim of violence? You are not alone. Make your anonymous call to Help & Shelter today and speak with a live counselor on 227-3454 or 225-4731.