



SuLynn was born three months early, weighing a little more than 1 pound. Six months later, she's growing into a healthy, alert child. Photos courtesy Mercy and Sharing Foundation.

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effort to appeal to people of any means. Donors can pay for all the needs of a Haitian child for \$50 per month in the Guardian Angel program (see related story, page A17).

She works the trenches

What makes Susie Krabacher unique among philanthropists is her willingness to work the trenches for her cause. While she spends her time in the United States schmoozing potential donors and giving speeches to focus attention on the plight of Haiti's children, she also regularly visits the infant-care unit at the hospital in Port-au-Prince, holding the deformed, retarded, malnourished and terminally ill kids.

Initially she wore a mask and rubber gloves at the hospital, but realized it scared the infants, who crave human contact.

"I will not touch those kids with gloves any more. It breaks their hearts. It kills them," she said.

With her fair skin and long, blonde hair, Krabacher cannot help standing out in Haiti. But she's just as comfortable traveling the streets of Cite Soleil as she is hosting an Aspen cocktail party. She used to visit Haiti every month; after 10 years with the foundation, she still spends a couple of weeks there every other month.



Trying circumstances

Working in Haiti is far from a Caribbean pleasure cruise. Krabacher's life has been threatened on several occasions, most recently in February when rebels were preparing to oust President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

"If God is with you, who can be against you?"

- Joe Krabacher

As the country slid toward possible civil war, the foundation's Haitian director, Stanley Joseph, reported to the Krabachers that one of their campuses had been surrounded the night before by men with automatic weapons and stockings over their heads. They threat-

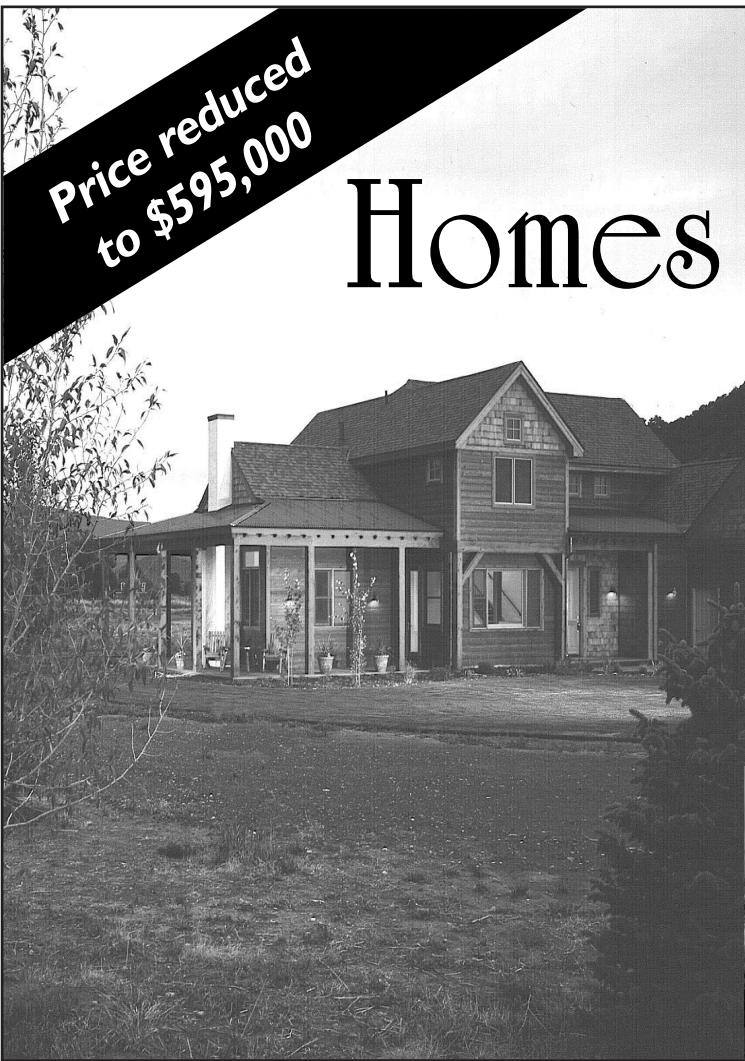
ened to kill the children if the land wasn't turned over to them.

Susie booked a flight and immediately flew to Haiti despite a U.S. State Department advisory against travel. In a recent speech to the National Press Club in Washington, D.C., Krabacher described how she, the foundation's volunteer U.S. director, Kathleen Carlson, and Joseph were stopped at a barricade.

"I opened the passenger door and started to step down from the truck when one of the men pointed the gun at my chest while another put a gun to the window of the back seat where two of our staff sat," Krabacher told the Press Club in a speech broadcast on CSPAN. "A man who appeared to be the leader ordered the men to shoot. Mr. Joseph, with his hands in the air, began shouting back that we take care of the Haitian children while I was shouting, with my hands above my head, that we respect them and only want to go to our orphanages."

Joseph eventually convinced the armed men to let them pass. "To this day I do not know why they let us go," Krabacher said.

And that's only the most recent confrontation. The Aristide government was extremely corrupt, both Krabachers agree. High-ranking government officials



Homes on the range

There's a lot of activity at Cerise Ranch. Not only are there several homes being built, but we're also preparing for the new amenities. This summer the new clubhouse and swimming pool are scheduled for completion, and the volleyball court and additional lakeside picnic areas will be up and running. So come and see what difference a year can make. To learn about the exceptional lots and homes at Cerise Ranch, call **Karen Toth of Carol Ann Jacobson Realty at 379.5252.**



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