



In the neighborhoods around her orphanages, including this one in Cite Soleil, Susie Krabacher is well-known to both adults and children. Kathleen Carlson photo.

have tried to extract bribes by threatening not to renew operating licenses for the orphanages.

Local gang leaders have also tried to extract money from the foundation. But Krabacher said she's earned their respect and trust. Parents know she is helping kids, so they pressure the gangs to leave her alone.

"I have a reputation — never, even if you put a gun to my head — will I pay you a bribe," she said.

Joe trusts Susie's knowledge of Haiti and the respect she's earned among locals to survive during times like the ousting of Aristide. Joe knows he couldn't have stopped her from going to Haiti once she heard the kids in the orphanage had been terrorized.

"She is a relentless advocate for the children," he said.

Conditions in Haiti have stabilized since early March, when Aristide fled, and an interim government was created and peacekeepers including U.S. Marines came to the country. Both Krabachers feel Haiti's prospects are significantly brighter under a new government.

The foundation's highest priority was to restock supplies after Aristide loyalists raided a warehouse and stole food, diapers and supplies. A donation from the Houston-based Medical Bridges organization will provide the Mercy and Sharing Foundation with two 40-foot containers of rice and beans.

The Krabachers' current project is to establish a clinic to support pregnant women and their unborn children. The first orphanage established by the foundation is no

longer large enough to care for all the kids, so it's being transformed into the prenatal clinic. If all goes as planned, it will open in June.

Susie said it marks a step in a new direction for the foundation — preventing birth defects and problems rather than addressing their results. The clinic will also offer family-planning advice.

One massive problem in Haiti is babies born with a lack of folic acid. In the United States the problem is easily solved, according to Krabacher, but in Haiti it goes untreated and leads to horrendous deformities. The ill health of the mothers also leads to problems like retardation.

"In the beginning, if I had known this was such a huge problem, it would have been my focus," she said.

Rotary International has given the foundation \$30,000 to buy rehabilitated medical equipment that will be used in the clinic. The Krabachers are raising the \$60,000 needed for annual operating expenses.

There is virtually no end to the list of projects the Krabachers want to tackle in Haiti. The more success they have, the more they seek to do.

"It is not impossible in any way, shape or form to change the world," Susie said.

More on the Mercy and Sharing Foundation is available on the Web at www.haitichildren.org.

Scott Condon's e-mail address is scondon@aspen-times.com.

How to help

You don't have to be a big spender to help the Aspen-based Mercy and Sharing Foundation save the lives of children in Haiti.

The foundation has new a "Guardian Angels" program that provides medical and dental care, education, school supplies and, in some cases, food for kids for \$50 per month.

Lots of organizations have similar programs, but they often pay only a fraction of the cost of helping a kid, noted Susie Krabacher, the founder and leader of the Mercy and Sharing Foundation. The \$50 per month in the Guardian Angel program pays for everything needed by the kids in the foundation's programs.

"Anybody any day of the year can save a child. Take the initiative, walk to your phone or computer, take three minutes of your time."

- Susie Krabacher

Krabacher said 100 percent of contributions go directly to aiding the kids in Haiti. All administrative costs are covered by Susie and Joe Krabacher themselves.

She said she isn't trying to convince people not to contribute to other similar causes. She would like donors to add the Mercy and Sharing Foundation to the groups they aid.

The Guardian Angel program is a good way for people of any income level to get involved in philanthropy. Donors will receive photos of the kids they save, as well as occasional letters from them. More important, they can help the foundation save lives in one of the poorest countries in the world.

"I don't want any kid to die," said Krabacher. "Anybody any day of the year can save a child. Take the initiative, walk to your phone or computer, take three minutes of your time and save a life."

A form that can be used to become a Guardian Angel is available at the foundation's Web site at www.haitichildren.org.

General contributions can be made by people who cannot commit to \$600 annually as a Guardian Angel. Krabacher said she appreciates the people who give a few bucks as much as those who donate \$100,000.

Contributions can be sent to The Mercy and Sharing Foundation, 201 N. Mill St., Ste. 201, Aspen, CO 81611.

— Scott Condon



Aircraft Charter

Operating a large fleet of Light, Mid-sized and Large Business Jets from all the local airports. 24 hour availability.

Aircraft Management

Complete aircraft management service available in Aspen, Eagle and throughout the USA.

Shared Aircraft Ownership

Our local aircraft partnerships offer superior service at a lower cost than the popular fractional ownership programs.

Call Dan McCarty for partnership information!

925-7510

1-800-359-2299

Aspen Airport



Richmor Aviation

formerly

TailWinds L7

One of America's oldest aircraft management corporations

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

NEW LISTING-ASPEN HIGHLANDS!

This building site has it all! True ski-in ski-out access, unobstructed panoramic views, gentle slope, close to all of Highland's amenities. \$2,975,000.

NEW LISTING-LIFT ONE

Beautifully remodeled one bedroom condominium. Excellent location, exceptional rental history. South facing with stunning views of Aspen Mountain. \$479,000.

TOP FLOOR-HUNTER CREEK!

This is a winner and the price is right! Top floor one bedroom with Aspen Mountain views. Nicely furnished. Offered turn-key at \$365,000.

ASPEN HILLS!

A 2-bedroom south facing corner unit featuring skylights, high ceilings and extra windows. Assigned parking. Owner pet OK. Perfect for locals or 2nd home. Now \$475,000.

CRESTWOOD SNOWMASS

All the amenities including on-site management, ski access, pool, jacuzzi, sauna, views, popular rental! Offered furnished and ready to go at ~~\$285,000!~~ Reduced to \$275,000 for quick sale!

RITZ-CARLTON CLUB - GREAT DEALS!

1/12 ownership interest in a fabulous luxury residence. Ski-in, ski-out access, views, and the best amenities and services. 2 Bedroom Units from \$199,000. 3 Bedroom Units from \$235,000.

INDEPENDENCE SQUARE

Aspen's popular downtown bed and breakfast on the pedestrian mall. Super location, historic charm. Great deals! \$179,000 and \$230,000!

TRANSFERABLE DEVELOPMENT RIGHT

Offered at \$245,000.

Frias
PROPERTIES
OF ASPEN

Please contact Dennis Jung at
730 East Durant, Aspen Colorado 81611
djung@rof.net

970.920.2000 ext. 2414
fax 970.920-9399 • 925-5699 home
See our ad on the back cover of Names & Numbers



DENNIS JUNG