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Colo. foundation's Haitian orphanage, clinic in ruins

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Susie Krabacher, co-founder of the Mercy and Sharing Foundation

A Haitian orphanage, hospital and clinic run by the Aspen-based Mercy and Sharing Foundation are in shambles following the earthquake that devastated the island nation last week, said Joe Krabacher, the foundation's co-founder.

A hospital, clinic and office building that the foundation started in Port-au-Prince in the mid-1990s was "pancaked" by the quake, and its orphanage in that city is in ruins, Krabacher said.

The children in the orphanage were unharmed, however, and have been evacuated to another foundation facility, known as the Williamson project, 40 miles from the city.

Of the clinic's four doctors and eight staffers, only two doctors have been heard from since the quake.

Susie Krabacher, Joe Krabacher's wife and the foundation's co-founder, managed to get into Haiti late Sunday. Joe Krabacher stayed in Aspen to coordinate communications and fundraising.

Susie Krabacher's team made it to the Williamson project late Sunday and found a handful of the 85 employees there, trying to care for hundreds of children. Many of the kids hadn't had food or water for two days. Disabled children had bedsores, and the facility's electricity and water pumps were not working.

Mercy and Sharing Foundation is accepting donations but cannot accept supplies because of the difficulty of distributing them. Donations can be made online at www.haitichildren.com/donation/.

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