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Taking on suppression, abuse, natural disasters worlds away

Two Aspen women aid those in Afghanistan and Haiti

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The Aspen Times

Two local women who run nonprofits that assist women and children in war-torn Afghanistan, where the Taliban has gained power, and in gang-infested Haiti, where two natural disasters in the past week have taken thousands of lives and left even more homeless, are asking

for the Aspen community's help.

Susie Krabacher, who in 1994 established the nonprofit organization HaitiChildren, will go to Haiti on Monday to help provide aid to those in Petit-Trou-de-Nippes in the Nippes department, where a 7.2 earthquake hit on Aug. 14.

Located about 80 miles west of the country's capital, Port-au-Prince, the hard-to-reach region also has suffered hundreds of

mudslides and landslides because of Tropical Depression Grace.

On top of that, the country is being run under an interim government since Haitian President Jovenel Moise was assassinated July 7 and gangs have largely taken over neighborhoods across the country.

"The gangs and government have come to an agreement and they will allow aid and medical to pass for a certain amount of time,"

Krabacher said last week.

Employees of HaitiChildren are mobilizing on the ground in Port-au-Prince and buying supplies to distribute to victims in Petit-Trou-de-Nippes.

HaitiChildren is coordinating with mayors, who are in touch with their residents to know who has lost their homes and who needs aid.

People will get a voucher and when HaitiChildren employees

reach them, they will in exchange receive a 75-pound box with emergency aid that will last up to two weeks.

They will get help carrying the boxes to their neighborhoods, which are not all accessible because of impassable roads.

Krabacher is currently raising money for the effort; \$27,000 had been donated as of Thursday and