

## Local woman's clinic part of goodwill still needed for Haiti

By Jessica Fargen | Sunday, January 9, 2011 | <http://www.bostonherald.com> | Local Coverage

A Dover woman, who two months ago opened a clinic for women and children in Haiti, is hoping the anniversary of the country's deadly earthquake will open the eyes of the world to the suffering still going on in the poor island nation.

"They are living in subhuman conditions a year later. We can't turn our backs. It's our duty. They, too, deserve the dignity of health, if nothing else," said Elizabeth Sheehan, 51, a mom of two and physician's assistant who started Containers to Clinics, a nonprofit that uses recycled shipping containers to build health clinics.

The first clinic opened in Port-au-Prince in October next to Grace Children's Hospital, filling a void left when the earthquake devastated most of the hospital buildings.

The Jan. 12, 2010, earthquake killed more than 200,000 and still a million remain displaced. A hurricane and cholera outbreak further devastated the country.

The clinic, made up of two, 8-foot by 20-foot-long rooms, is staffed by Haitian doctors and nurses and is giving women a way to better health, Sheehan said.

More than 1,000 women and children, who otherwise would be seen in moldy, stinking hot tents, have been treated there.

"We are removing barriers for women around health and safety," Sheehan said. "The need is tremendous there. There's an explosion of teen pregnancy, an explosion of rape, STDs. Women's health is in a dire situation."

The clinic cost about \$60,000 to build and was shipped pro bono to Haiti.

It is earthquake, flood and hurricane-proof, said Sheehan, who hopes to have another one in Haiti by the end of the year.

Jessica Thompson Somol, a volunteer and fund-raiser for Containers to Clinics, said the clinic has succeeded because Sheehan works with Haitians to staff it and locals know it will be there for years to come.

"It's sustainable," said Somol, who lives in Dover. "It's relief organizations like Liz's that are going to be there for the long haul."

Go to [containers2clinics.org](http://containers2clinics.org) for more information.

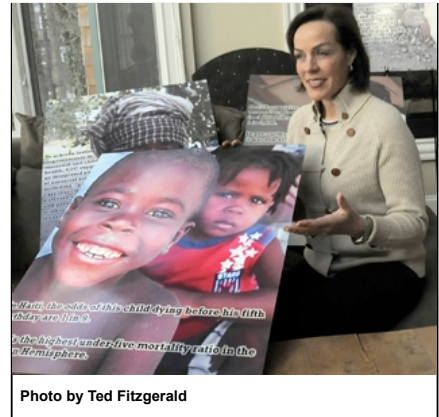
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