

Locals flying in to help

In Waco, meanwhile, Diane and Gary Heavin, founders of the Curves International chain of franchised workout centers, are donating their resources to help the victims.

Gary Heavin, a pilot, flew the company jet out of Waco on Wednesday, with the intention of picking up a team of doctors in Indiana and Missouri and flying them to Miami and then on to Haiti this morning. Diane Heavin said she will fly commercially to meet up with her husband in Miami, and she will do whatever she can to help in Haiti.

“What’s interesting about this is that no commercial flights are going into Haiti, but they are allowing private planes with doctors,” Diane Heavin said. “There are a lot of needs over there, and one of the greatest is getting doctors in there to take care of Haitians, especially orphans, some of whom have been adopted and will be brought back to the United States.

“Through Sunday, we will be making two flights a day between Haiti and Miami, shuttling these orphans,” she said. “I look forward to sitting in the back of the plane and comforting them.”

Diane Heavin said the company is donating the use of its plane and the manpower. Two relief pilots will help Gary Heavin make the flights between Haiti and Miami.

‘Touches the heart’

“The whole situation touches the heart,” Diane Heavin said. “We’ve all seen the pictures, the displaced children and how horribly scared they are. It’s kind of gut-wrenching.”

Diane Heavin said the company also has designed a Haiti T-shirt that will be sold for \$10 at the company’s workout centers, with money going to relief efforts.

Waco-based Curves International has nearly 10,000 locations in 80 countries.