

DIRECTOR'S NOTE...

Deanna Wallace, AAO Executive Director

It's been a difficult month for the Children's Center in Sierra Leone. The heavy rains have made the dirt roads almost impassable, electricity has been in extremely short supply, and our generator has been broken/fixed/broken several times. On top of that, we've had a terrible problem with a leak in the roof of our building, and the repair men have not been able to find the source in order to fix it! Through it all, the children have been coping, and we've continued to provide the best possible care for them – but **our general fund is at the lowest point it has been all year**. We urgently need your donations, so that we can meet our expenses for the coming weeks. You can donate online at www.aaodubai.org/donate.php or send your donation to the address at the top of this newsletter. Please consider how you can help us!

On a brighter note, this month we received the remaining Dh 88,000 needed to complete our six-acre land purchase in Grafton, Sierra Leone! This is a tremendous contribution and we'd like to acknowledge and thank the donor (who wishes to remain anonymous) who made it possible. What a fantastic gift to the future of the children in Sierra Leone!

On the following page, you'll also see that the **HearMe documentary**, which features All As One's children, will be premiering next week. **Shae D'Lyn** (pictured below), an actress and the producer for the HearMe film, recently e-mailed me about her experience with the kids at the Children's Center. She wrote, *"Thank you Deanna! We had the most extraordinary experience with your children. It is just incredible how positive and loving they are. You guys have done an amazing thing, really, really amazing. Thank you with all my heart."*

Shae has reminded me what it's all about -- the children. Yes, the bills have to be paid and the roof needs repair, but bottom line, the kids' lives are being transformed. We'll continue to try and meet their needs to the best of our ability – and we want to thank you so much for your part in making that possible. **You are greatly and truly appreciated!**



HearMe Update

We're so pleased to let you know that the HearMe documentary film is now finished and will be premiered at the **Elevate Film Festival** (www.elevateexperience.com), at Nokia Theater in Los Angeles, California, on October 5, 2008. The children of All As One participated in the filming, along with children from orphanages in Cambodia, Iraq, and a foster care facility in Watts, California. It was a wonderful learning experience for the children, and they now have **20 XO laptops** (and a new computer lab) at the Children's Center as a result!

We're also pleased to be able to provide a link to an online version of the film. Check it out at:

www.hearmehub.com/THE_BIG_IDEA!.html

In addition, a new website is being created that will feature the entire All As One children's performance (filmed in August 2008). You can view this website soon, at www.hearmehub.com. The kids and staff in Sierra Leone worked very hard on their performance and we want to make sure and share it with you!



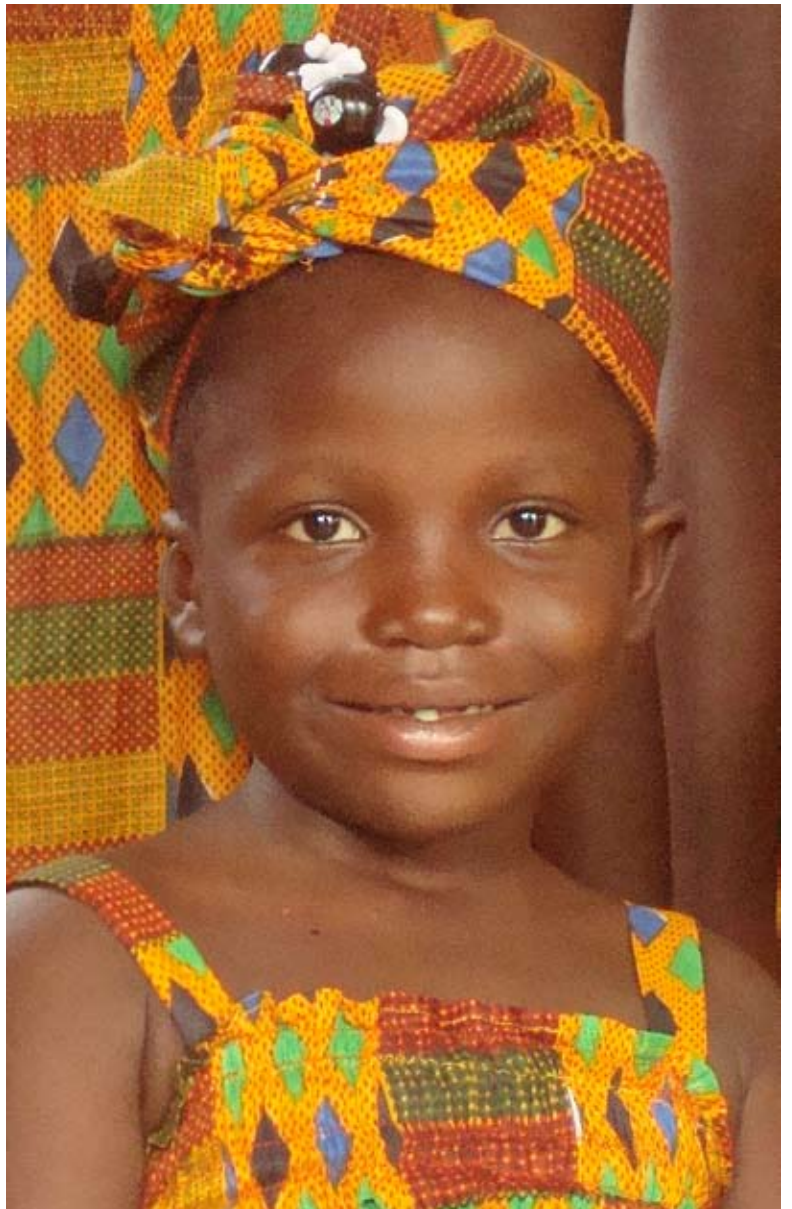
THE CHILDREN NEED YOUR HELP!

With Eid fast approaching, many friends, work colleagues and family are thinking of ways to help and support the less fortunate around the world.

With the All As One Sponsorship program, you know that the money you donate (four dirhams a day = 1440 Dirhams a year) goes directly to support the All As One Children's Center in Freetown, Sierra Leone. If you have been thinking about sponsoring, or perhaps you are a sponsor and have been thinking about sharing your experiences with friends, now is the time to do it!

We are only able to provide for the children in our care due to the generous support of our sponsors, and we need more sponsors to cover our monthly costs. This month, we have had some people helping out, and we hope that you'll join us too...

- **The Staff at HELLO! Magazine Middle East** donated money raised through an office sale to All As One, and are now a proud team sponsor. They know that, together, they have made a difference to the children in our care! Thank you to **Anita and all the team at Motivate Publishing** who so generously participated!
- **Sairah**, a proud sponsor of brothers at the Center, collected funds with her friends during Ramadan and said, *"I'd like to donate it to a charity that's close to my heart – of course, it didn't need further thought."* She choose All As one – thank you!!
- **Karen Jones** held a private party with friends during Ramadan to benefit All As One. We are extremely grateful!



If you are interested in volunteering with All As One, please let us know. We are looking for volunteers to help with the following areas:

*Donations In-Kind
Event Management and Event Volunteers
Logistics Management
Giving presentations about AAO to schools and local groups*

If you think you can help out, please write to info@aaodubai.org. We look forward to hearing from you!



DUBAI MARATHON

We want to encourage as many people as possible to consider fundraising for All As One, by participating in the **Dubai Marathon** or associated **Fun Run**. Information about this event, being held on **January 16, 2009**, is available at www.dubaimarathon.org. On that site, you can sign up for the actual marathon (open to 18 years or older), the 10 Km road race (open to 15 years or older), or the 3 Km Fun Run (open to all ages).

Along with participation in the run, you can also raise funds for All As One by getting sponsors to back your participation. We've made it easy for you to get donations through our dedicated fundraising web site at www.firstgiving.com/allasone. Click on the "Get Started" button and follow the steps to create your own fundraising web page! It's free to set up, and once you've gotten your own web page, you can invite everyone you know to donate and sponsor you in the race! You can also use this Firstgiving site for other fundraising events you might like to participate in – so please check it out!

BBG Presentation

We would like to thank the British Business Group for inviting us to speak at its annual **Iftar Dinner** on the 15th September, that had over 120 members attending. The evening was a wonderful way for BBG members to get involved in the spirit of Ramadan and hear talks from the Sheikh Mohammed Centre for Cultural Understanding, as well as a number of local charities, including All As One!



The All As One presentation was brilliantly delivered by **Beth Lewis** and **Susan Parker** from Fifth Ring (www.fiftring.com), who kindly volunteered their presentation talents to share the work of AAO with BBG Members. We want to thank Fifth Ring for their on-going support, and especially Beth and Susan for doing a such a great job!

If you would like us to speak about All As One at a club or society in Dubai, please contact us directly by emailing info@aaodubai.org. We would be more than happy to share with you our current and future plans.

AAO HERO ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Jocelyn Clarke has been a volunteer with All As One in Dubai for the past five months, and is one of our most recent recruits. She plays an active role in sponsorship renewals, is responsible for banking and picking up our mail, and is one of the first points of contact with initial inquiries.

Jocelyn first became aware of AAO when she approached a friend, **Gill Sadler**, asking her to recommend a charity with which she could become involved that would make a real difference.

Jocelyn says, "I knew I had to do something, living in such a materialistic, cash-rich city, where we have multiples of everything, and these children have nothing. I have a 22-month daughter, Amelie, and within days I had halved her toys and clothes and many of our surplus things around the house -- things we hadn't even gotten around to using. I approached Gill, and when I heard about AAO, I had to get involved. The past five months have had a major impact on my life. I'm just an everyday person. I still enjoy brunches and everything Dubai has to offer, but I now sponsor two children. We write to them and send pictures, so they know someone else cares and thinks of them. We send ad hoc small donations, so the children can have outings and extras, and I give my spare time volunteering."

For Jocelyn's birthday, in October, she has asked her husband, Doug, to go online and "gift her" by sponsoring two more children on her behalf. Through Jocelyn's passion and drive, she has secured new sponsors. Through her connections, we now have a PR company, **Fifth Ring** (www.fifthring.com), who have committed to working for us pro bono for the next 12 months!



Thank you, Jocelyn, for your outstanding commitment and support to All As One and the children in Sierra Leone!

Thank you to our regular monthly donors, who make our work possible!

A special thanks to our first time donors in August:

Amit Mulani - Anita Lasser - Aron & Jody Early - Avinash Jagetiya - Celina Miklaskewski - Daniel Bither - Jamie Rodrigues
Jennifer Perry - Joanne Haggerty - Keith Flanagan - Nick Sambevski - Priya Mathew - Roslyne Bourguignon

We would also like to thank the following supporters for donations over \$500 in August:

David Walker and Polly Archer - Drew and CJ Ebersole - Michael and Carol Geisler - Stephanie Hamilton - Yvonne Katter

And a special thanks to...

