



## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Deanna Wallace, AAO Executive Director

This month has been especially difficult at the Children's Center, as we grieve the loss of one of our little ones. Saidu came into our care about a year ago and was extremely malnourished and sickly. We were able to keep him alive and were optimistic that he would get better quickly. Although he improved significantly over the next few months, it was discovered that he had sickle cell anemia. This meant that Saidu's immune system was vulnerable and he endured much pain. Despite these obstacles, Saidu grew into a happy and playful boy. He became one of our "poster children" and was known around the Center for beating on his little drum with a big smile on his face. He brought so much joy to everyone he met!

A few weeks ago, Saidu became ill. The doctors suspected TB and he was taken to the hospital at the end of April. Every effort was made to save his life, but after about a week in the hospital, Saidu took a turn for the worse and passed away on May 3, 2007.

We are all grieving the loss of Saidu, our dear little drummer boy. His beautiful eyes and sweet smile will always be remembered. Although it is hard to lose one of our beautiful children, we know that there are many children's lives we have saved and continue to try and save every day. Our hearts are grieving, but we're reminded that we cannot stop. Saidu's passing is an impetus for us to do more, to care more, and to reach more children whose lives are at risk.

**The orphaned and abandoned children in Sierra Leone need your help. Please consider a monthly sponsorship of All As One. 500 pledges of just FOUR DIRHAMS A DAY (or 120 dhs/month) for a year, will cover the operating expenses of the All As One Children's Center! We currently have 186 monthly pledges, but we need 314 more in order to reach our goal. Please join us in helping build a future for the children in our care. Your support will make it possible for our work to continue, and for lives to be saved.**

For more information, email [sponsorship@aaodubai.org](mailto:sponsorship@aaodubai.org), or sign up today at:  
[www.aaodubai.org/donate.php](http://www.aaodubai.org/donate.php). Thank you.

## CENTER UPDATE:

**We have not had running water for almost two months now, and electricity is very scarce.** Every day, we have to hire vehicles to take the launderers (and the piles of laundry) to a place to find water in which to wash. The cost for the generator fuel is exorbitant. We are working on solutions for the water situation, but continue to need your support for our ongoing needs.

Commencing **16th of May**, in sponsorship by **Choithram** in the Jumeriah area we will have a "**nappie drive**". Purchase your nappies while shopping during **Organic Week**, and **Choithram will provide a percentage of the organic sales proceeds to All As One, AND collect the nappies for us!**

## GIVING OUR CHILDREN HOPE

The Children's Hope Foundation (CHF) was founded in Dubai in 2000, under the patronage of HH Sheikh Ahmed Bin Saeed Al Maktoum. The mission is to provide aid to underprivileged children across the globe by supporting smaller charities, both local and abroad. **We would like to express our gratitude to CHF for recognizing our efforts and contributing to helping the children of All As One with a donation of 10,000 dirhams.**

## URGENT APPEAL FOR STORAGE FACILITY!

All As One has been very fortunate in the significant number of enquiries about donating items for the Children's Centre. Our freight is sponsored by DHL who provides us with two containers a year and four air-freight parcels.

Showbiz Pizza at Town Center is a permanent drop off point but we have been unable to accept many of the items that have been offered which are needed in Sierra Leone, because we do not have a storage location.

If you have space which you can offer please call us at **04.311.6578**, or email **info@aaodubai.org**.

## IT TAKES AN EMIRATE...

On 24th March, All As One Dubai held its first **DONATION DRIVE** across Dubai at five **Choithram's** locations. The response was fantastic and we wish to thank all of our supporters, who donated so many items.

Logistics and storage is always a major concern for us, but to the rescue came **Alifiyah Vali, the owner of Saifee Interiors & Joinery**. Alifiyah had a truck big enough to collect all of the donations from **Bur Dubai to The Green Community**, which she donated for the day. [When in need of custom joinery work, please consider Saifee, at +971.50.697.8517, as they are so very supportive of All As One!]

Storage was donated by **Carol, the Manager at The Green Community Market Shopping Mall**. Over a period of a week, busy volunteers sorted and priced items for the White Elephant Sale at **Dubai Country Club** under the organization of **Michelle Montgomerie-Knappett**, on 30th March.

In event planning, it takes a lot of volunteer hours to make a successful event. A big **THANK YOU** to all of the sponsors, from drop off points, logistics, storage and, finally, to the sale. Thank you to **Choithram** for being such strong supporters of the children of All As One! And thank you to the many volunteers who gave of their time and great energy.

**These efforts raised 10,000 dirhams for the orphanage!**

**SHOWBIZ PIZZA at TOWN CENTER** is accepting in-kind donations for All As One. Showbiz generously supplies their space and employees' time to collect and sort these donations. Please use their time and space wisely and bring **ONLY** the items which are on request.

**We are currently looking for small musical instruments, whiteboards and NAPPIES.**

Our special thanks to **Gladys Africa**, Operations Manager at Showbiz, and the great team who support AAO.

## Got some time on your hands? VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

### Part-Time Admin Assistant:

Required two mornings per week, to answer general telephone enquiries and emails. Calls are taken by Signature Business Centre, who will transfer the call through to the on-duty admin person's mobile. Messages can be taken and calls can be returned. Email can be answered from home, at a time convenient to the admin person.

### Volunteer Co-ordinator:

Required to work closely with the admin team and update and maintain a volunteer database and keep volunteers up to-date with forthcoming events and info. Will be required to contact and co-ordinate available volunteers to help with fundraisers and events. Flexible position with no specific days/hours.

Email us at **info@aaodubai.org** if you would like to help!

## Mariama Update:

We're so happy to let you know that Mariama has now successfully completed her cleft lip and palate surgery! The surgery was performed on April 10 and she is now recuperating and doing very well. Thank you to all who gave to make this surgery possible for Mariama – it has literally changed her life.

Mariama will be traveling back to Sierra Leone in May and we are making plans for her to soon be adopted by a family abroad – so this means she'll be able to get the follow-up care that she will require as she grows. Thank you again for all you've done to help Mariama over the past several months. We are pleased to show you this recent photo of Mariama (taken just two weeks after her surgery)!



## A DROP FROM THE SKY FOR ALL AS ONE!

Every day we see amazing feats by people who are dedicated to helping the children of Sierra Leone. In April, **Carla Gellard** jumped out of a plane in a sponsored sky dive! Carla had always wanted to jump, but her fear kept her from doing so – until she learned about the needs of the children in All As One's care. You can see that she had a huge smile during the experience – we did too, when she presented AAO with a donation for **10,810 dirhams!**

When she isn't jumping out of planes, Carla is a hair-stylist at **Hairworks Saloon**, which is located at the **Umm Sequiem Spinney's Center**. "The generosity of my clients and co-workers was incredible," Carla said. "I couldn't have raised these funds without them." Carla said the jump was "wicked scary and exciting all at the same time!" **Our thanks to Carla, the clients at Hairworks, and Carla's family and friends for making this amazing donation possible!**

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

- ★ The All As One **QUIZ NIGHT** will be held at **Muntazah Club in Jebel Ali** on **Thursday, 31st May**, from **8pm** until late. Test your skills on general knowledge, local and global cultures, cinema, music and other areas like dingbats and Family Fortunes. You could come away with some great prizes. The quiz masters have been running this event for the last year, and, each time, have managed to make it different from the conventional "pub quiz" -- **it's fun and, best of all, it's for a great cause!**

Entry fee is **AED50** which includes a three course meal (no beverages). For booking please send your name and contact number to [events@aaodubai.org](mailto:events@aaodubai.org) or telephone **Geri** at **050.450.8360**.

- ★ Visit [www.aadubai.org/takeaction.php](http://www.aadubai.org/takeaction.php) and click on "**special events**" to keep up-to-date with the latest!

## SPECIAL THANKS:

- ★ To **Mayada and Mosha Abueideh**, for their purchase of new playpens, feeding chairs, walkers and 5 cots for our baby room. No matter how many projects and charities they may already support, they always embrace opportunities to give. We appreciate their generosity so very much!
- ★ To **Xerox Emirates in Dubai**, for joining the list of our official sponsors, and printing all of our published materials and stationery. We would like to thank **Andrew Hurt**, Managing Director of Xerox Emirates, for his support, **Belal El-Banna**, Marketing manager, for arranging and coordinating the printing and, last but not least, **the staff of the Xerox Copy Centre** on Sheikh Zayed Road, for executing the job effortlessly and efficiently. We could not do this work without generous organizations like Xerox Emirates!