

DIRECTOR'S NOTE...

Deanna Wallace

AAO Executive Director

Earlier this month, I told you about our new arrival to the Children's Center, 7-year-old **Mamie**. I think her story is so compelling, that I want to share it with you again.

Mamie, like so many children in Sierra Leone, has lost both of her parents. The extended family members she has left are unable to afford to keep her. **They left her to fend for herself, scrounging for food to exist each day, and unable to attend school.** Mamie came to the All As One Children's Center last month not trusting anyone. She had suffered many beatings and "possessed a sadness inside" according to All As One staff. She was emaciated from hunger, and she flinched in response to any sudden movement, as if she was expecting someone to strike her.

In her first few days the Center director, Steven Amara, would ask, "Have you eaten lunch today?" When Mamie nodded "yes" he then said, "Well, don't worry...You are also going to eat dinner." Mamie didn't always believe this at first, but she was happy to hear it. **She did not understand what it meant to have a secure food source, but she now has one for the first time in her life.**



Mamie is now in a loving place where she receives daily nourishment, medical care, and even an education. She no longer needs to hoard food, she has new "brothers and sisters", and is quickly becoming an excellent student. This month Mamie will for the first time spend the holidays in a place of peace, comfort, and love!

But there are many more children like Mamie in Sierra Leone – children who end up abandoned, left to fend for themselves, without life skills, through no fault of their own.

That's why All As One has committed to providing a loving home, medical care, and an education to the children of Sierra Leone. But we can't do it without your help!

During this holiday time, please give generously so All As One can provide children with a family, medical care, and an education throughout the coming year. With your help, the holidays can be a time of comfort and joy for even more of the children of Sierra Leone.

You can give right now by clicking on this link:

US News!

- Some of our faithful supporters have been holding fundraising house parties to help share with their friends about AAO and the children of Sierra Leone. **We now have invitation graphics and a packet of other helpful information available to get you started on your own house party!** All you need to do is invite your friends to your home, provide simple food, help spread the word about the needs for the children in Sierra Leone, and provide them with an opportunity to give! If you'd like to help All As One in your community by holding your own house party, please write to info@allasone.org and we'll be glad to get you started.
- The children recently had an incredible time with the **HOW (Helping Others Worldwide)** volunteers from the US, who spent two weeks at the Children's Center, providing art therapy sessions for our children and staff. It was a truly special and unique learning experience for everyone involved, and we'll be sharing more about this with you in our next newsletter!
- **We have lots of wonderful ideas for holiday gift items on our AAO shops.** You will find links for our shops at:
www.allasone.org/wearcare.php
- In November, **Rafaello & Company Jewelers** held a gala launch of their **Blackout Collection** in New York City. Along with this launch, Rafaello pledged to donate 10% of the proceeds from the collection to All As One with the first check being presented at the event. **We are thrilled with this partnership and truly appreciate a diamond jeweler trying to give something back to Sierra Leone!**

UK News!

- We have a couple of fantastic AAO supporters running in the **Semi de Paris** half marathon on Sunday, March 7, 2010. Have a look at www.semideparis.com/2010/index_us.html for more information on the event. Those running for AAO will be **Caroline Donnelly** and **Shaan Radia**. We will keep you posted on their progress with both training and fund-raising in the next few newsletters leading up to the event!
- We were approached by **th1ng (www.th1ng.com)**, a film production company, about a month ago, asking if they could do a short promotional video for us for free. We said yes! They are in the final stages of producing this for us, and it will be on the web site very soon. It's great, and we are thrilled that they chose All As One as their charity!
- **We've not quite reached the £5,000 income necessary** yet to register with the Charity Commission, so if you were considering a donation -- maybe for yourself or a present for family or friends -- this is the time to do it. The end of our first accounting year is December 31st, and we need to reach this threshold by then. Please help if you can! Thank you!

Dubai News!

- The Christmas gifts will soon be on their way to Sierra Leone and the children are eagerly looking forward to their holiday. We so appreciate all who gave and **DHL** for donating the shipping of the gifts!
- **We are also very grateful for the recent supporters who have renewed their sponsorship commitments. Thank you so much!**
- Visit the Dubai AAO gift shops for a unique holiday gift that helps to spread the word about AAO! You can find them at:
www.aadubai.org/wearcare.php



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



Thanks to our first time supporters in November:

Suzie Burke - Claire Petrich - Linda Brown - Cheri & Rob Marusa, who donated the Suncadia golf package at our Seattle Benefit



And thank you to those who gave over \$500 in November:

Rafaello & Co. Jewelers - American School of Dubai - Mark & Heather Farrell - David & Teena Green - David and Adrienne Battiston
Lars Nielsen & Annebrite Stensgaard - Joumana Baltagi



Corporate supporters:

