

DIRECTOR'S NOTE...

Deanna Wallace, AAO Executive Director

We have a new arrival at the Children's Center this month -- a girl about 20 months of age, who was found abandoned in a critical condition, with burns over much of her body. She was not expected to live when we first received her, but after getting medical treatment at our clinic, she began to recover. A couple of days later, we took her to a local hospital for assessment and additional treatment, and she has continued to progress extremely well. Pictured here is this little girl, who we have named Grace Ashley, only five days after arriving at the Children's Center. With her shy smile and loving eyes, it is hard to believe that she was almost unresponsive and in critical condition just five days ago.

Grace Ashley's case is just one more example of why All As One's work is so vital in the lives of the children of Sierra Leone. *And, it is important for you to know that it is due to your donations and prayers that All As One is able to rescue Grace Ashley, and many more like her. Your contribution, whether large or small, has a huge impact on these children's lives!*

Thank you so much for your continued support! I'm happy to report that all of the children in our care are doing well at this time. They are really enjoying their new rented home in Marjay Town, where they have more room to play outdoors. It's been a positive change for the kids, and we're very grateful. **All the children send their greetings to you and say, "tenky boku" (thank you very much)!**



The Children Need Your Help

All As One needs your continued support so that we're able to rescue more infants and children who have no one else to care for them. Please join with us to help the children by:

- Sponsoring the kids for only \$30 a month
- Making a one-time donation
- Helping us with our expanded vision for All As One, to build a better home, school and medical center for the orphans of Sierra Leone on our new land.

To make a secure online donation, please go to www.allasone.org/donate.php, or for more information, e-mail us at info@allasone.org.



UPDATE ON ARON

In March we sent out an urgent appeal to raise funds for one of the infants in our care. Baby Aron, was born with a condition known as hydrocephalus (fluid on the brain) and needs surgery that is not available in Sierra Leone. Without the surgery, he will not have any chance of survival.

We have located a neurosurgeon in Nigeria, Dr. Femi Bankole, who is willing and able to do the surgery for Aron. **And thanks to the generous donations we've received from our supporters, Aron will soon be flying to Nigeria for medical evaluation and surgery next week.**

It is expected that Aron, along with one of our nurses who will accompany him, will be in Nigeria for 2-3 weeks. We are hoping this intervention will save Aron's life and give him a chance for a better future.

We sincerely want to thank all the people who have given so generously so that Aron could have this chance. Please keep Aron in your thoughts and prayers, as brain surgery on such a small baby can be risky. We are all hoping for the best, and will keep you posted on Aron's progress.

GRAFTON LAND UPDATE

As most of you know, All As One has purchased over six acres of land in Grafton, Sierra Leone, on the outskirts of the capital city of Freetown. This area has a large population of displaced and war-wounded children and families. In this ideal location, we have plans to build the new All As One:

- **Women and Children's Hospital** (with doctor training facility) -- to target children, especially under the age of 5, and women of child-bearing years, *in an effort to improve the high infant and maternal mortality statistics in Sierra Leone.*
- **School** -- to provide primary, junior and senior secondary education, adult literacy classes, and vocational training, *in an effort to change the fact that Sierra Leone has one of the world's lowest adult literacy rates, at only 30%.*
- **Children's Center** -- to provide homes for up to triple the number of children we are currently serving, *in an effort to rescue some of the estimated 340,000 orphans in Sierra Leone.*

All As One operates entirely by individual and corporate donations. Without your support, we would be unable to continue our work. We are looking for partners in our efforts to build the new compound. Please contact us at info@allasone.org for more information on how you can help.



A view of our new land, and its available water supply.

★ AAO'S SUPERHERO ★

All As One has been blessed to have many wonderful volunteers, who generously give of their talents. We'd like to tell you about one of these people -- Mike Deaver.

Mike owns and operates Ciara Solutions (www.ciarasolutions.com), where he provides clients with web hosting, domain names and web site development. **Mike not only donates all of his web hosting services to AAO, but he is our "go to" guy, when we have functional issues with our site.**

Jen Brauer, who volunteers as AAO's Creative Director, says, *"I can make things look pretty, but I can't necessarily make things WORK! I can't count the times I've had to contact Mike in the middle of the night to help me fix some major dilemma with the web site. He ALWAYS drops what he's doing, even if it's sleeping, to get us out of a jam. And his response is ALWAYS the same -- 'I'm happy to help, Jen!'"*

We want to thank Mike for his huge heart, and his desire to give so freely of his time and talent in order to help the kids of Sierra Leone. He does all of this completely joyfully, without any need for recognition. It overwhelms us. We love you, Mike!

Independent research project being conducted this month in Sierra Leone



Ashley Walker, a PhD candidate from Texas Women's University, is here in Sierra Leone this month conducting research for her dissertation. She is focusing on the "problems facing Sierra Leone's orphans," and is using data and information gathered from 10 days spent in Sierra Leone.

The mode of research being used is called **"action research,"** which is designed to encourage social change. She is also incorporating "photo/voice" technology, by providing 10 of All As One's Sierra Leonean staff members with digital cameras so that they can photograph and describe the problems for orphans in Sierra Leone. These staff members, who volunteered for the project, will then answer in-depth questions about why they took certain photos, and how those images represent problems (or solutions) for the orphans of Sierra Leone.

Next month, we hope to share with you a synopsis of the research, along with some of the photos taken by our staff. We are very excited to see and hear directly from Sierra Leoneans about this issue, and we hope that this research will help to spark additional research in this area. The goal is to find more solutions to the problems facing the children of Sierra Leone.

We want to thank Texas Women's University, Dr. Jody Early, and graduate student Ashley Walker, for their commitment to, and interest in, the children of Sierra Leone.

Gala Dinner Fundraiser planned for June 15!

IIR Middle East is hosting a **Corporate Social Responsibility Summit** from June 14- 19, 2008 in Dubai (www.iirme.com/csr). All As One has been named as the official charity for the event with a gala dinner planned for 15 June, at the JW Marriott Hotel in Dubai.

Special guest, Mrs. Sia Koroma, the First Lady of Sierra Leone, will be in attendance. Please save the date! The event is being held at the JW Marriott Hotel in Dubai. ***The event is currently looking for corporate sponsors, so please contact matthew@aaodubai.org if you're interested.*** More information will also follow in our next newsletter!



DHL delivers supplies to Sierra Leone

DHL has once again come to the rescue of the children of Sierra Leone by donating the shipment of urgently needed nappies, baby formula, and laundry soap to the All As One Children's Center.

Pictured here are some of the dedicated DHL staff who helped to make this shipment possible!

We are extremely grateful and appreciate all the ways that DHL continues to support our work in Sierra Leone.

Dubai triplets' birthday raises funds for AAO

The five-year-old **Fitter triplets**, in Dubai, recently celebrated their birthday. In lieu of gifts, their parents asked their classmates to donate the money they would have spent on presents to All As One instead. As their mom, **Sharin Fitter**, writes, ***"I'm amazed and delighted to report that despite half the class being away during holidays, we raised 3000 dirham (\$800)!"***

We're so grateful for the wonderful gift, and also the unique approach to raising awareness and funds for the children in Sierra Leone! Thank you to the Fitter family and the classmates from Kings' Dubai school who gave so generously!



Niamh, Ned and Oonagh Fitter

THANK YOU to ALL who gave in March 2008, especially our regular supporters!



We would also like to give a special thanks to our first-time donors in March 2008:

Alison Armstrong - Anne Waruguru Kimotho - Basil Fakhri - Carolyn Underwood - Chris, Nicola & Molly Hudson - Debbie Rademan
Dina Hamzeh - Emma Barber - Ernst Dekker - Hasnain Fakhruddin - Joseph Dear - Julie Perrold - Julie Symons - Kelly-Anne Smith
Ken & Kathy Spencer - Lakshmi Parasuram - Lori Marier - Lorna Mayne - Louise Atack - Luce, Pete & Izzy Goulding
Maryam Denton-Cardew - Melanie Stewart & Wayne Williams - Parizad Dardrewalla & Kashmira Driver - Peter Croke - Pooja Sharma
Ravi Bahaiini & Ahvi Shek - Razan Alyazani - Rebecca Bogard - Ruth Kumar - Sidney Soares & Alita Fernandes - Susan Tracy
Suzanne Abraham - Victor Andrei - Vincent Silvestro - Vlad Andrei

Thanks also to the first-time and other donors who gave over \$500 in March:

Horizon School - Christopher & Tammie Flinos - Cosmopolitan Tan Boutique - Glenn & Marilyn Tosten - Anonymous Donor (Dubai)
Khaled Rabbani - Marion Rodrigue - Martin & Joanna Thurmann - Nichole Bekdache - Reem Nassar - Sharjah English School
Sharon Beecham - Yvonne Katter

And thank you to AAO volunteer, Jeannette Klaua, in Dubai, and her fellow Siemens employees, for their donations:

Harshala Fernandes - Dr. Gregor Bett - Ahmed Metwally - Franz Schnabel - Patrick Chehade