

DIRECTOR'S NOTE...

Deanna Wallace

AAO Executive Director

We are just waiting for the final government “sign-off” before we begin clearing the land and putting in the well on the property we have purchased in Sierra Leone. **However, the December date for our rental eviction is fast approaching, and we don't yet have a new home for the children!** We are trying to see if we can get an extension of time in our current rental, but, at this moment, things are still uncertain. In the meantime, we continue to actively and eagerly work on potential funding for our building project. **If you or anyone you know may be interested in helping (in any and all ways), please contact us.**

With the impending situation of our eviction, I find that my focus is often on the problems. Today, however, I want to concentrate on hope. I feel hope when my attention turns to the beautiful faces of the children we serve, and I know that their lives are better because we care. This month, I especially want you to meet 4-year-old **Mary Q.** Mary is one of the 40+ kids that All As One cares for through our daytime school and feeding program. We provide Mary with a free education and regular medical care, as well as feeding her breakfast and lunch each day. Mary is an All As One Academy nursery student, who has been part of our daytime program for the past two years. Just like the orphans in our care, Mary and her friends from the community now have the opportunity to learn, grow, dream and **become.** What a life-transforming and hopeful gift!

Stop and think about this for a moment. Children's lives are literally being transformed every day. They have hope! Because of you!

As I'm sure you can imagine, it's not easy or inexpensive to raise 100 children. It is, however, well worth the effort. **In fact, the results are definitely priceless!**

Thank you for making it possible for us to provide life-changing programs to Mary and the other children. We also know that through your help, we will find a solution to our housing problem. Please keep us in your thoughts and prayers – and consider making a gift, if you're able. I appreciate you so much – and I look forward to having more **hopeful** news soon!



AAO BENEFIT CONCERT IN SIERRA LEONE

We're excited to announce a benefit concert to be held at the **British Council in Freetown, on Sunday, December 15, at 1 pm**. It will feature **Azania** (www.Azania.com), with proceeds to go toward our new building project.

Azania is an award-winning, multi-cultural musical artist. She was born and raised in the US and Geneva, Switzerland, but her family is originally from Sierra Leone. Azania has sung in major music festivals, such as the world-renowned Montreux Jazz festival, and was honored to perform for the Presidents of Liberia, Sierra Leone and the U.K. In Paris, she won first prize in the TV competition *Graines de Star*, on M6TV. Broadcast to over 4 million viewers, it was the first French show similar to *American Idol*.

Performing with Azania will be **The Ballanta Entertainment Band** and **Lili Ballanta Cultural Group**, as well as the **All As One children's ensemble** and more. We are so grateful to have Azania's support!



BELTSHIP CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Our AAO kids have a wonderful holiday treat being planned for December 8. **Beltship**, a shipping company working in Sierra Leone, is hosting a Christmas luncheon for the children, complete with lots of food and gifts. Beltship's staff and management are taking part, and will be bringing much-needed supplies for the children, as well. **Thanks go to Martina Cleary, Marjolijn Van Tiel-Postma and the rest of their co-workers and staff**, for making this possible. We are so encouraged and honored to have Beltship's amazing support!

GIFT FROM TCC



TCC Global employees in the UK (www.tccglobal.com/en) held a charity drive and raised **£1464 (\$2460)** to donate to All As One. Pictured here are **Luce Goulding** (left), an All As One UK trustee, receiving the gift from TCC Global representative, **Emma Karley**. We appreciate the wonderful support very much, and want to send our deepest thanks to all of the TCC Global employees who contributed to making this gift possible. This support plays an integral part in keeping the orphans healthy, safe, and growing!

DHL & DUBAI COME THROUGH AGAIN!

We are extremely grateful to **DHL in Dubai** for once again donating the shipment of holiday gifts and much-needed supplies to Sierra Leone. Thank you, as well, to our **Dubai sponsors**, for their donation of all the items being shipped. **Your generous support makes this holiday time so awesome for the kids!**

CORRECTION:

Our last newsletter erroneously stated that Suzanne McConnell's skydiving fundraiser raised \$1700, when in fact **the event raised \$2500!** Thank you again, Suzanne!



Thanks to our first time supporters in September & October 2013:

David Mee - Johnsey Kivoto - Kalman Gabriel - Khim Yap
Sharon Pillsbury

Thank you to those who gave over \$500 in September & October 2013:

Andre & Nicki Naude - Dubai Duty Free Foundation
Ettaline Hill - Filura - Forbes & Jean Gildersleeve
Jebel Ali Golf Resort and Spa
Jebel Ali Ocean View Hotel employees
Jody Bolling - John & Betsy Lee - Lisel Donaldson
Mark & Kathryn Hackland - Melanie Brown Maddux
Nasrine Talog Davies - Nicci Fettis - Nicola Powsney
Polly Archer & David Walker - Robert Wallace - TCC Global
Urvasi Naidoo - Yvonne Katter

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

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