

DIRECTOR'S NOTE...

Deanna Wallace

AAO Executive Director

The children in Sierra Leone had visitors recently. A group of volunteers from **HOW** (www.hownp.org) returned to the Children's Center (they were first there in 2009) for two weeks of art therapy classes with the kids and staff. This time, the classes focused on digital photography. **The exercises were designed to help the children communicate, non-verbally and verbally, process their emotions and feelings, as well as learn techniques and tools to express themselves and grow in the world of art and education. The AAO teachers were also mentored so that they can carry on these therapeutic art exercises as part of the school curriculum.**

The kids really enjoyed their classes, and began to experience healing and new insights on their trauma and loss. During the process, they were encouraged to share about their positive and negative feelings, and were also given the chance to hope and dream for the future. **We are so grateful to the HOW volunteers for investing their time, money and energy in our kids.** This is a treasured gift the children received this holiday season that will last them a lifetime.



At the end of the program, the kids were asked to write down their dreams and hopes. It was wonderful to read what the children wrote! I want to share a few excerpts with you (missing words, poor grammar and all), as well as photos from those two weeks:

Monday (age 10) writes, *"My dream is to be a musician. I wish to play my guitar and be very good at it. I want to play music in the stadium and in the church. I want to share it at birthday parties."*

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Sahr (age 8) writes, "My dream is hero. My dream is rescuer. My dream is warrior."

Kadie (age 10) writes, "I want to be a successful woman in life. I want to be a God-fearing person."

Amadu (age 12) writes, "The thing I want to become in future is a chef. The restaurant that I will be working at will be the best restaurant in the world. I will be the best chef in the world...I will be the richest professional chef. When people taste my food, they will jump and say, 'This is very delicious and I will eat the whole plate!'"



Ibrahim (age 8) writes, "I will be a president of Sierra Leone. I will be a good president with these qualities: love, honest, teaching, kind, patient."

Santigie (age 9) writes, "I am a dreamer and a believer. I can do anything I believe I can do."

Hopefully this glimpse into our children's hearts and minds has inspired you. **When you consider where these kids have come from – neglect, abuse, abandonment, starvation, hopelessness – it is amazing to see their sense of confidence and their hearts full of hopes and dreams!**

I don't know about you, but I can use a "glimpse of hope" right now. AAO's work has been severely financially challenged this year. But, through it all, the children have continued to grow and become amazing individuals – all due to your thoughts, prayers, love and gifts! **HOWEVER – we would be thrilled to see 2012 bring in a more positive flow of support for our work in Sierra Leone. Do you have advice for us on how best to make this happen? Do you know people we should contact or talk with? Please contact us! We also hope that you'll remember us with your end of year giving and continue into 2012!**



Help AAO secure a long-term membership with GlobalGiving!

We have until midnight on December 31 to receive donations from 50 unique donors, to earn a membership with GlobalGiving!

GlobalGiving offers organizations an easy-to-use fundraising and donor management system, fundraising tools and training, and access to their corporate partners and media outreach. Membership could be extremely valuable to an organization like ours, with no advertising or fundraising budget, by attracting donors and maintaining an innovative, informative web presence.

As of the time of this printing, we need 24 more individuals to make a donation of \$10 or more, to reach the donor requirement!

You'll find lots of information about our campaign challenge, as well as the GlobalGiving Foundation, on our "Open Challenge" page. Please visit , and share it with your friends.:

www.globalgiving.org/projects/proper-sanitation-for-100-orphans-in-sierra-leone

Our GlobalGiving Campaign

Our goal is to provide safe garbage disposal for 100+ orphaned children in Sierra Leone.

ISSUE: Sierra Leone, like many other developing countries has a very weak infrastructure and no regular garbage pick-up system. Often unable to dispose of waste in a safe way, many Sierra Leoneans are forced to dump garbage in public areas, creating a major public health issue. At All As One, we are committed to keeping our kids safe and teaching them the value of sanitation through proper waste disposal. However, our current system is incredibly expensive. **All As One pays over \$500 (US) a month to hire private trucks to take out the trash!**

SOLUTION: With a **Motorcycle Trash Trolley**, we would no longer have to rely on expensive waste disposal services -- we would be able to do the job ourselves! **This would save over \$400 a month** and we would be able to use the savings to help more kids at our Center. The Trolley will also help us increase safety by enclosing waste in cans, diminishing the ability of disease-carrying mosquitoes and flies to procreate.

LONG-TERM IMPACT: During it's estimated 20 years in operation, a garbage trolley would help All As One **provide a safe home environment for over 1,000 orphaned and destitute children, and help thousands more in the community.**

REQUESTED FUNDING AMOUNT: \$ 6,500

- **\$10** provides gas for one trip to the disposal center.
- **\$25** provides gas for two weeks.
- **\$50** helps register and insure the Trash Trolley.
- **\$125** buys a closed, safe, garbage can for our Children's Center.
- **\$300** covers the cost of the trolley driver's salary for a year.

VISIT OUR CAMPAIGN PAGE:

www.globalgiving.org/projects/proper-sanitation-for-100-orphans-in-sierra-leone

Or text **GIVE 9300** to **80088** to make a **\$10 donation** to AAO, through the GlobalGiving Foundation. Charges will appear on your wireless bill, or be deducted from your prepaid balance.



"Our beautiful kids need protecting, and the proper disposal of waste will eliminate the breeding ground for mosquitoes that carry malaria and also pollute the local environment. It will save money too!"

- Steven Amara, All As One Country Director, Sierra Leone



Mosaic Arts Project

All As One's Sierra Leone country director, Steven Amara, recently visited the US. While here, he spent several days with the wonderful people at **Seattle Mosaic Arts** (www.seattlemosaicarts.com), lead by **Dr. Claire Barnett**. During his time at the mosaic studio, he was taught the basic steps to making mosaics, so that he could transfer this knowledge to the children and staff in Sierra Leone. In the process of learning, a beautiful sign with the All As One logo was created. This sign, along with boxes full of tools and supplies for making mosaics in Sierra Leone, were then donated by **Liz Wall**, (a friend of Seattle Mosaic Arts) and Dr. Barnett. **We are so grateful for the time spent in giving lessons and creating the mosaic, as well as the donation of the needed supplies to teach our kids and staff how to make their own works of art!** We can't wait to see what our kids will create!

Annie Wright School Pen Pals

When **Steven Amara**, AAO's Sierra Leone country director, was visiting the US in October, he went to speak to some of the children at **Annie Wright School** (www.aw.org). Two of the 6th grade classrooms there are now linked up with some of our school-age children in Sierra Leone, as pen pals. The kids in Sierra Leone have received their first letters, and are working on their responses to the AWS students. It's great to see how both groups of children are now benefiting from the cultural exchange!

If your school would be interested in connecting with some of our students in Sierra Leone, please let us know!



All As One Art Benefit

The AAO "**Art for Shelter**" event was held on December 1, in Olympia, Washington. We so appreciate the tremendous support given to us by **Mike, Ann and Majken Ryherd**, in planning, sponsoring and hosting this special evening! The beautiful venue, delicious food and great wine (donated by **Bill Stauffacher**) were outstanding. The art work for sale was gorgeous, unique and inspiring. There was something for everyone - and **we raised about \$5000 toward our 2012 rent!**

Thank you so much to the following artists and friends of artists, who contributed art for our sale:

Ann Reynolds-Pearl - Ann Ryherd - Brad Scelfo - Brian Ebersole - Clare Petrich - Connie Barclay - Dayton Knipher - Debo Tolentino Emily Zabransky - Eric Slagle - Jane Handel - Juliet Rosser - Keith Buchholz - Kelly Luscombe - Ken Conte - Kim Merriman Kris Skewis - Laurie Sorenson - L. Jay Pearson - Lilia Nieto - Lisa Lang - Lisa Mayo - Lita Gill - Lonnie Johns-Brown Lynn Coulibaly - Majken Ryherd - Martha Davis - Mary Papiez - Rep. Mary Helen Roberts - Maureen Morris - Melanie Stewart Mike Ryherd - Monica VanderMars - Phil & Nancy Watkins - Plum Stark - Sally Kirk - Sara Guindon - Natalie Waterman - Tina Abbott



HERE IS WHAT YOUR TAX-DEDUCTIBLE GIFT CAN DO!



\$50 covers one child's **medical care for 1 month**

\$75 covers one child's **food for 1 month**

\$100 covers one child's **school costs for 4 months**

\$250 covers one child's **complete care for 1 month**

\$500 covers the costs of **medicine for our clinic for 1 month**

\$1250 covers the **entire school budget for 1 month**

\$3750 covers the **entire food budget for 1 month**

\$5000 covers the **Sierra Leone staff salaries for 1 month**

A gift in honor of a loved one is not only meaningful, but will ensure that the children of All As One will have a better life. It doesn't get more special than that! **Please consider how you can help and donate online at www.allasone.org/donate.php.**

And don't forget our AAO Shop, at www.cafepress.com/shopaao! We are SO grateful for your support!



The Westminster School initiative

The Westminster School, Dubai, recently donated some of their old uniforms for the school children in Sierra Leone. The initiative was headed by the Senior Student Council, who carried out the task for nearly two weeks, with the help of other student leaders. They informed younger classes, collected and sorted uniforms – all tasks being done by students. Packing was then done by the administrative team. Special thanks to student leaders **Asma Sohail** and **Ruslan B.** We also want to thank their advisor, **Nilambari Gokhale**, Deputy Head of Section (Girls) at The Westminster School. The children in Sierra Leone greatly appreciate the uniforms!

Thanks to our first time supporters in November 2011 :

Alex Hur - Alia Griffing - Bruce Neas - Christina Ward - Debora Merle - Jattu Amara - Joelle Davidson - Kenan Conte - Kevin Buchholz
Lisa Lang - Michael & Lila Transue - Natalie Waterman - Paul Dziedzic - Rep. Mary Helen Roberts - Richard Little - Rob & Shari Early
Sally & Walter Kirkpatrick - Sandra Wall - Susan Dunn - Teresita Torres

Thank you to those who gave over \$500 in November 2011:

Robert & Joanne Lovelace - John & Betsy Lee - Rodney & Marion Rodrigue

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