

DIRECTOR'S NOTE...**Deanna Wallace***AAO Executive Director*

Gbessey (pronounced "Beh-shay") is an All As One child, through and through. She came to us when she was just 3 days old. Her mother had died that morning from complications of the birth, and Gbessey arrived into our care that afternoon. She was VERY small and needed around-the-clock care.

Gbessey just recently had a birthday, and is now 3 years old. She has become a beautiful, healthy toddler, who is happy, active and developing on target for her age. Her caregivers describe Gbessey as playful, talkative, outgoing, and a leader among the other toddlers. She loves playing hide and seek, eating ginger cake, and doing things her own way! She has recently started nursery school, but she isn't very interested in school just yet. She would rather play or sing!

Gbessey's wonderful progress brings me a lot of joy during this holiday time. I am SO grateful to all of you who have supported our work this year, so that Gbessey and the others could continue to have a home and future! Thank you very, very much!

As I consider Gbessey's remarkable journey, I also reflect on the reality that Sierra Leone has some of the world's highest maternal and infant mortality rates. Many infants need help, because their mothers do not survive their births. Without intervention, these orphaned babies often don't survive, either. Gbessey has beaten the odds so far. I'm very thankful for that. But, we want to provide a safe haven for even more children. We need your help!

For All As One, your gifts are not just "a drop in the bucket." **Your gifts go directly to saving children's lives and providing opportunities for them to have a brighter future.** This holiday season, won't you please give generously so that we can save many more children's lives in 2013? We are truly depending on you.





HOLIDAY SHIPMENT FROM DUBAI

We are now putting together the annual shipment of holiday gifts from Dubai to Sierra Leone, with the wonderful help of **DHL**. **Thank you to all who gave clothing, shoes and other gifts for our children. We appreciate you all so much!**



ART BENEFIT

We want to thank **Mike, Ann and Majken Ryherd, Melanie Stewart and Wayne Williams**, for hosting the wonderful Art Benefit on November 27, in Olympia, WA. **Thank you to all of the artists who donated their work.** The event raised over **\$2200**, and we are very grateful!

AAO CHILDREN WIN SIERRA LEONE NATIONAL ART CONTEST!

The British Council in Sierra Leone held a week long “English Learning Week” and invited the top 100 senior secondary students, in the nation of Sierra Leone, to attend. Part of the program included a national art contest where students were asked to draw particular comic book characters. **One of our AAO children, Isata (age 16), was chosen as the first place national winner with her drawing of Spiderman. Amazingly, the second place winner was also one of our children -- Ahmed (age 13), who drew Wolverine from X-Men.** With so many entrants and All As One having a relatively small number of students entered, we are thrilled that our kids did so well. We have always tried to encourage the children’s artistic talents, but they have surpassed our expectations. Congratulations to both Isata and Ahmed! We are extremely proud of them!



BOOK PROCEEDS TO HELP AAO

One of All As One’s supporters, **Stephanie Hamilton**, has written the book, **Hungry**, a personal “*photographic essay highlighting the power of simplicity, awareness and love.*” Stephanie has plans to donate some of the proceeds from her book to All As One, and we are very grateful! The book is available on iTunes, Blurb.com, and will soon be available on Amazon.com. You can learn more at nektar.ae/hungry.

YEAR-END GIVING...

Please consider giving as generously as you can this month. YOU can make all the difference in the lives of the children of Sierra Leone! Online giving is available at www.AllAsOne.org/donate.php or email us (info@AllAsOne.org) for our address and/or bank details. Thank you so much!

- * **\$5** covers 1 child's preventative medicine & vitamins for 1 month
- * **\$25** covers 1 child's school costs for 1 month
- * **\$50** covers 1 child's medical care for 1 month
- * **\$75** covers 1 child's food & water for 1 month
- * **\$100** covers 1 child's school costs for 4 months
- * **\$360** annual sponsorship connects you with 1 of our children directly
- * **\$500** covers the costs of medicine to stock our clinic for 1 month
- * **\$1500** covers the All As One Academy budget for 1 month
- * **\$3750** covers the Children's Center food budget for 1 month



Thanks to our first time supporters in November 2012 :

James Johnson - Cynthia Millsberg - Peter Cook

Thank you to those who gave over \$500 in November 2012:

Jebel Ali Resorts & Hotels
DHL (donated shipping costs)

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

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