

**DIRECTOR'S NOTE...**

Deanna Wallace

AAO Executive Director

**Happy Holidays from the children in Sierra Leone!** We hope this is a wonderful season for you and your family. It's such an exciting time of year, and the kids send you their warmest greetings. This is the month during which we are supposed to be moving out of our current rental, but we have not started packing yet. We're working through the courts in Sierra Leone to try to get a 3-month extension of time before moving, and we're hopeful that this time frame will be granted. We are still urgently working on raising the funds needed to begin construction on our land in the Grafton area. We really need your help, and are so grateful for any support you can provide.



As you'll see on the following pages, the kids have lots of fun events happening this month – all due to YOU! Thank you for caring about the children and making such an amazing difference in their lives. **On behalf of the beautiful children in our care, I want to wish you the best of holiday seasons and a love-filled and prosperous 2014!**



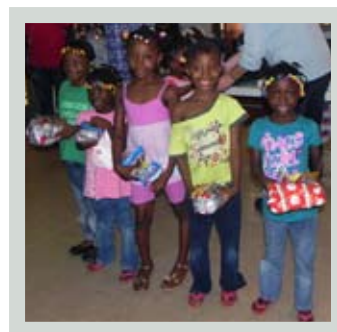
## DHL HOLIDAY SHIPMENT

We're so thankful to **DHL in Dubai** for sending the shipment of holiday gifts and much-needed supplies to Sierra Leone for the children! Thank you, as well, to our **Dubai sponsors**, for donating the gifts and all the other supplies. You are wonderful!



## BELTSHIP LUNCHEON

On December 8, **Beltship** ([www.beltship.com](http://www.beltship.com)), a European shipping company, hosted a Christmas luncheon for the All As One children, staff (and their children), plus the kids from the community who attend our school. In all, about 130 children and 30 AAO staff members were treated to a catered lunch and holiday gifts! Many of the gifts and other donated supplies were sent from the **residents of Blumberg, Germany** and **employees of the A&P Falmouth shipyard in the UK**. The Children's Center also received a donated 32-inch LED television with a DVD player for the children's enjoyment! Thank you to Blumberg, Germany, A&P Falmouth and Beltship, for the amazing help to the kids and the fabulous Christmas party!



## AAO BENEFIT CONCERT

All As One held its first-ever benefit concert in Freetown, on Sunday, December 15, at the British Council. The show featured **Azania** ([www.Azania.com](http://www.Azania.com)), as well as **The Ballanta Entertainment Band** (pictured at right, with Azania), **Lili Ballanta Cultural Group**, the All As One children's ensemble and other special guests.

We want to thank **Azania, Dr. Henry and Dr. Filomina Steady, Steven Amara, The Ballanta Band & Cultural Group**, as well as all of the other performers, who worked so hard to make this even possible. The concert was held just as this newsletter went to press, but we look forward to sharing details with you in our next newsletter!



### Thanks to our first time supporters in November 2013 :

Anis Hassan - Renjita Praveen

### Thank you to those who gave over \$500 in November 2013:

Anne & Peter Williams - Dave & Adrienne Battiston  
Debbie Rademan - Tricia Finn

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

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