



Building a future for Africa's children

January/February 2010

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DIRECTOR'S NOTE...

Deanna Wallace

AAO Executive Director

So many exciting and wonderful things have happened in 2009. We were able to care for over 75 children in small and large ways. Five precious babies came into care, who might otherwise have died. Our school went through the Sierra Leone government's accreditation process, and passed. Our clinic also helped to save many lives. We are grateful for all of the people who made it possible!

And there is still so much to do!

But, as I look to 2010, it's hard to see very far ahead right now. We squeaked through 2009, as the world struggled through financial crisis. Looking back, I can see that God provided many small miracles that have sustained us over the past 18 months -- and I know that He can do it again. But, I find myself working to keep my faith strong, as I learn each month to depend on His timing to sustain our essential and life-saving work.

We are once again at a very urgent place, financially, in our efforts to provide for the children in our care. As I reflect on this, I realize that it can't be said enough...

**We absolutely depend on your generosity and support in order to keep going.
We have no other funding source.**



Please help us get through this budget crisis with your generous support. You can give a gift online at:

www.allasone.org/donate.php

Thank you so much for making a difference for the vulnerable children in Sierra Leone!

ONE Campaign Trip



Many of you are familiar with ONE, a grassroots campaign and advocacy organization, backed by more than 2 million people, committed to the fight against extreme poverty and preventable disease, particularly in Africa. In January, a high-level delegation of ONE members went to Ghana and Sierra Leone. You can read more about their trip at:

www.one.org/blog/category/women-one2one-trip/?aux=28

One purpose of the trip was to create a film about Sierra Leonean women making a difference in Sierra Leone. For the past several months, AAO has been sending our head nurse, **Sia Nyuma**, for midwifery training in an effort to combat the high infant and maternal mortality rates in Sierra Leone. At the training school, the ONE campaign group met with Sia, and chose her to be featured in their film! **As part of the filming, ONE's crew spent time at the Children's Center, too.**

We are very proud of Sia and her accomplishments and will keep you posted as to when the film will be available for viewing.

News!

The children had a wonderful time in November with **HOW** (*Helping Others Worldwide*) and their "**Kidz Heart Art**" art therapy program. The kids and the staff greatly benefited from all they learned, and the Children's Center is now decorated with much of the children's artwork! **We are so thankful for HOW's contribution to the children's lives.**



Ryan Leslie, singer/songwriter/producer (www.ryanleslie.com), has recently done the voiceover for a new video clip produced by the UK firm, **th1ng** (www.th1ng.com), as a way to raise awareness for AAO. We are thrilled with this video gift and hope that everyone will watch it, download it, and send it along to their friends! Please share it with EVERYONE! You can view the video online at www.allasone.org/video.php. Thank you for helping spread the word!



Some of our supporters have been holding fundraising house parties! All you need to do is invite your friends to your home, provide simple food, share information about the needs of AAO and the children of Sierra Leone, and provide them with an opportunity to give! If you'd like to help by holding your own house party, please write to info@allasone.org, and we'll be glad to get you started!



UK News!

We have fantastic All As One supporters running in the **Semi de Paris** half marathon on Sunday, 7th March. Check out www.mycharitypage.com/CarolineDonnelly to help support us through the event. Those running for AAO will be **Caroline Donnelly, Shaan Radia**, and four others. We will keep you all posted on their progress, training and fund-raising! **If you are a UK tax payer, please tick the box to give the Gift Aid, which immediately increases your donation by 28%!**



One of our new supporters, **Hassiane**, a doctoral student at the University of Oxford, is from Sierra Leone, originally. Hassiane was able to spend some time at the Children's Center during her recent holiday break in Sierra Leone (*photo at right*).



We have also been blessed to meet up with **Solveig**, who has her own connection to Sierra Leone and is keen to help us. **Solveig runs a beauty salon in Hampstead, and she has already put a collection box in her salon for donations from her customers!**



Dubai News!



Thank you to the newly formed band, **The Wild Dogs**, who held a free concert in December, and entertained in the rain! After a first set, prompting lots of dancing and singing along, they passed around a bin, and people dug into their pockets. **This impromptu donation was given to All As One and we are very thankful!** Thank you to The Wild Dogs and the wonderful people who support them!



The Christmas gifts from Dubai were wonderful for the children! **Thank you to all who gave and especially to DHL for donating the shipping of the gifts!**



Thank you also to the **American School of Dubai Elementary Swim Team Swim-A-Thon 2009** (*see photo above*). The children swam to raise awareness and funds for AAO's work for the children in Sierra Leone. The kids in Sierra Leone send a loud and happy "thank you!"



We are aware that things have been changing in Dubai and many people have been relocating. **We hope that even in your relocation, you will still continue to support our work.** And for those of you still in Dubai, help to spread the word on behalf of the children! **If you have not already done so, please sign up to be a 4-dirhams-a-day sponsor at www.aodubai.org/dirhams.php.** We NEED you!

Christmas Parties!

The kids all had a lovely Christmas in 2009, thanks to all of our supporters who helped us to provide for the children's needs and holiday parties. It was a very special time! The kids were also invited to the **First Lady of Sierra Leone, Sia Koroma's** Christmas party in December. Enjoy a few of the photos from their holiday time!







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



Thank you to our first time supporters in December 2009 and January 2010:

Belinda Rennie - Carl A. Ross - Diana Debley El Khoury - Gary Shuster - Jeffrey & Dana Bernstein - Jeffrey M. Shaw - Joanna Gillam
Lisa Dimas - Lisa Paul - Mary-Clayton Enderlein - Mosaic Coffee House - Myrna Khoury - Robert Axworthy - Ulla Kropf-Thiel
Vladimir Petroci



Thank you to those who gave over \$500 in December and/or January 2010:

Allen & Jennifer Holmes - Cornelia Zekveld - Donald Witkowski - Expat Woman - Fitness First - Forbes & Jean Gildersleeve
Glenn & Marilyn Tosten - Helen Hoad - Jelle & Marielle Tolsma - Jocelyn Clarke - Jody Bolling - John & Betsy Lee - Lynn Coulibaly
Mark & Irene Powell - Melanie Brown Maddux - Pete & Holly Berry - Sarojini Gunaseelan - Sharon Beecham - Yvonne Katter
Tamara Matejka & Deb Scannell



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