

DIRECTOR'S NOTE...

Deanna Wallace

AAO Executive Director

So many children in Sierra Leone grow up without any education or preparation for their future adult life. As Steven Amara, our country director in Sierra Leone says, *"The children grow up empty inside, but they grow up anyway."*

In thinking about Steven's reflection and talking it over with our Board of Directors recently, **the contrast between the children in our care and the ones who are outside our Children's Center gates was very apparent.** Our kids grow up with an education and preparation for their lives as adults and the future leaders of Sierra Leone. As one of AAO's board members put it, *"The focus of All As One is not really about helping children avoid death. It's about helping the children to have a LIFE."* All As One truly makes a vital difference in these kids' lives.

Pictured here, in their new school uniforms, are some of the younger AAO kids, who are being "filled up" with an education, so that they don't grow up "empty." These kids are learning and "becoming" as a result of your support and love. Thank you doesn't begin to touch the depth of gratitude owed to you for making such a huge impact in their lives! But, the children wanted to make sure you knew how grateful they are – and they made these signs for you!

We are always in need of more support so that we can continue providing for the needs of the children in our care – and so that we can reach more children outside our gates. Your support is critical, and if you can help today, please give online at:



www.allasone.org/donate.php

Enjoy the photos on the following pages of the kids during their holiday time – and thank you again for all you to do make our work possible!

NEWS!

A huge thanks to **Ryan Leslie**, *Grammy-nominated singer, songwriter & producer* (www.ryanleslie.com), for designating All As One as his charity of choice in a recent gig he did for the **James Blake Foundation**. We are so grateful for Ryan's amazing support and the gift we received from the James Blake Foundation in his name!

All As One Benefit Art Show, hosted by **Mike & Ann Ryherd**, was held January 27, at The Loft in Olympia, WA. It was a wonderful success and we are so grateful to Mike & Ann for their sponsorship of the evening. **The event raised over \$7500 for the Children's Center!** Thank you so much to those who donated artwork: *Adam Hayes, Annmarie Foltz, Barb Ruble, Blaise Van Hecke, Debra Gurtler, Fallon Early, Gail Stone, Gerald Oar, Gina Brahy, Hayley Amara, Jane Handel, Jattu Amara, Josh Ferdaszewski,*

Kathy Roseth, Kelly Luscombe, Ken Conte, Leslie Goldstein, Linda Frizzell, Lonnie Johns-Brown, Lynn Coulibaly, Majken Ryherd, Marlene Daniels, Marvel Foltz, Mary Helen Roberts, Matt Coyle, Melanie Stewart, Mike & Ann Ryherd, Seattle Mosaic Arts, Tina Abbott, and some of the children at the All As One Children's Center. **We hope to do it again next year!**



* * * THE HOLIDAYS AT ALL AS ONE * * *

The children had a wonderful holiday season! They enjoyed several parties, including one given by the First Lady of Sierra Leone (photo, top left) and an outing to a play field near the beach. They truly appreciated the gifts, and were especially glad to have received new school uniforms. **Thank you to DHL, Fitness First, Baby Shop, and all of you in Dubai who gave so generously!**





For more photos and the latest news about All As One, visit our Facebook page!



www.facebook.com/AllAsOne



Thanks to our first time supporters in December 2010 & January 2011 :

Aedas - Amanda Goodgame - Amy Ruble - Bernard Dean - Christina Vaule - Dolores Yerbury - Erin Daley - Fallon Early
Ismael Mohamed Kebbay - Jamila Thomas-Roberts & Kevin Roberts - Julia Seabury - Keith & Lynn Kessler - Kristen Rubis
Lara Nicholas - Mark Streuli - Martha Shinnors - Matt Coyle & Sharon Estee - Melanie Stewart & Wayne Williams - Melinda McCrady
Michael Faulring - Preeti & Sharan Heran - Robin Zukoski - Roma Miller - Sandeep Dhot - Sarah Pelot-Hobbs - Sherie Story
Sharon, Neetu & Amrita Heer - Stan & Marjorie Finkelstein - Tim Probst - Tish Taylor - Usborne Publishers

Thank you to those who gave over \$500 in December 2010 & January 2011:

Anonymous - Azania Steady - Ben Bradford - Cristina & Jean Daniel Bourgeacq - Donald Witkowski - Elizabeth Williams - Fitness First
Elliot & Beth Raizes - Forbes & Jean Gildersleeve - Gene Colin - Glenn & Marilyn Tosten - John & Betsy Lee - John Moore - Joseph King
Joumana Baltagi - Katarina Boustedt - Lynn Coulibaly - Mark & Kathryn Hackland - Martha Davis - Martin & Terry Tomlinson
Mike & Ann Ryherd - Nicci Fettis - Polly Archer & David Walker - Richard Smigielski - Robert & Joanne Lovelace - Ryan Leslie
Robert & Katherine Roseth - Rodney & Marion Rodrigue - Springs Dubai Brownies - Tiziana Federico - Zakia Demaghelatrous

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