

DIRECTOR'S NOTE...

Deanna Wallace

AAO Executive Director

This beautiful little guy is **Steven**. He's the toddler who was dropped over the fence and into the All As One compound, three years ago. **He was a frightened, malnourished 2-year-old, who had suddenly and painfully been abandoned.** Since we didn't know his name or background, he was named Steven, after our AAO country director, Steven Amara. It took "little Steven" a long time to begin to smile. But, as you can see, he has grown into a happy and healthy child with a sparkle in his eyes and a contagious grin. This photo was taken after an afternoon of painting (thus the traces of paint on his face). He loves his artwork, playing sports and singing. He's also extremely bright and excels in school. To sum it up, he's a terrific kid! And he's one of so many that we are privileged to care for in Sierra Leone.

To me, little Steven's story is about love triumphing over despair. **The happiness he exudes didn't come by accident.** His enthusiasm for life is the result of years of being cared for and loved by AAO's staff – who are able to do what they do because of your love and support. Steven, in turn, is sharing his love and joy with all of us. It's an ongoing and perpetual circle of love that makes all of our lives better. **But, make no mistake -- without your concern from around the world, his world would be very different.**

Thank you for putting that mischievous grin on Steven's face. And thank you for all the shouts of joy and times of laughter that you have provided for the other special children in our care. **Our hearts are so**

touched by your generosity, and we're also moved to try and help even more children. With your support, we can!

There are so many kids, like Steven when he first came into our care, who still need to know there is **HOPE** for a brighter future. We want to bring love and laughter to them too! Your gifts makes it possible! **Even a small gift goes a long way!** Please help to spread the word about AAO to your friends and family, and consider making a gift online at:



www.allasone.org/donate.php

Thank you for being part of the reason for Steven's smile and for providing opportunities for love to triumph!

NEWS!

We are busy putting up the boundary marking pillars, sign boards and a temporary fence on our property in Grafton, Sierra Leone. We have recently cleared the land and hope to soon begin the first phase of our building project. By building a new school, hospital and children's homes, ***we can dramatically change the future for the children and people of Sierra Leone!*** We are actively looking for partners to help fund these projects. Please contact us at info@allasone.org, if you, or someone you know, may be able to help!

Mike Ryherd and **Ann Daley** held their annual All As One house party at their home in Olympia, Washington, in February. It was an especially meaningful event because AAO's country director, Steven Amara, was in the US and able to attend. We so appreciate the support of Mike, Ann and their family and friends, who care about the children in Sierra Leone!

Sharjah English School had a Primary School production of "My Christmas Metro," in December (*photo at right*). With a story line that took place in a variety of Christmas destinations in and around Dubai, each year group had the opportunity to take center stage, and sing to a packed audience of friends, parents and grandparents. Before the encore, one of the Year 6 pupils spoke to the audience. He told them that he and his fellow pupils recognized how lucky they were, and that, because of this, they would donate any money raised after the performance, to support children less fortunate. **Through their wonderful efforts, Dhs 1600 was donated** to All As One as part of the school's continued support of our work for the children in Sierra Leone. We are very thankful!



AAO UK is looking for anyone with fundraising ideas or those thinking of holding an event – a pub quiz, running in a race, a non-uniform day at school, a dress down (or dress-up) day at work, or any other ideas. We'd love to hear from you! Please contact **Ettaline Hill** at ukdirector@allasone.org, and we will send promotional materials to get you started.



● Thanks to our first time supporters in February:

Bill Daley
Carol Taylor Cann
Donald & Anne Bennett
Jan Ignash
Jim Richards
Joan L. Machlis
Marta Martinez

● Thank you to those who gave over \$500 in February:

Forbes & Jean Gildersleeve
Ghislaine Bourgeacq
Mike Ryherd & Ann Daley
Rodney & Pascale Mayhorn
Sheilvy Salazar
Selvi Subramaniam-Kaspar
VeriSign (*matching gift for Martin & Joanna Thurmann*)

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