

DIRECTOR'S NOTE...

Deanna Wallace

AAO Executive Director

Here is beautiful **Gbessey** (pronounced Beh-shay), who came into our care at 3 days old. Her mother died on the third morning after giving birth to Gbessey, and she came into our care that very afternoon.



I wish that Gbessey's story was unique. Tragically, many of the children in our care came to us under similar circumstances. **The infant and maternal mortality rates in Sierra Leone are among the worst in the world.** Since so many of our little ones have come to us just hours or days old, it has become somewhat of a "speciality" for All As One to care for these infants who are at high risk. Most organizations in Sierra Leone that care for children are not able to take in the very youngest of orphans, often because they lack the staff and funding. **Because of your support, All As One has been able to do what others cannot.** It's a challenge we gladly accept, as we try to make sure we have adequate medical care, supplies and staff with the right training to be able to help these little ones thrive.

Now that Gbessey is one year old, I wanted to celebrate her progress with you. I can't think of any better way to measure All As One's success than to see photos of the children. Gbessey's good health and care show on her. Please take Gbessey's progress as one example of how you ARE making a huge difference for these precious children!

We believe that every child deserves the chance to have a future. **Gbessey is just one orphan out of the estimated 320,000 orphans in Sierra Leone.** We want to reach as many of these children as possible. Please help us to take in more children like Gbessey! We need your continued support!



Ryan Leslie, Grammy-nominated singer/songwriter/producer (www.ryanleslie.com), is going to be heading to Sierra Leone next month. He, along with a film crew, **will be making a music video with the children, and also filming a short documentary about our work.** His hope is to raise support and awareness for All As One. We are so excited about his visit and can't wait to share more with you once it happens!

Thank you so much to the **American School of Dubai (ASD) swim team** that put on a "swim-a-thon" that raised **Dh 5000** (\$1360) for the kids in Sierra Leone! We are so grateful and appreciative to have the wonderful support of ASD -- the staff, students, parents, and especially the fantastic swim team!

In the UK, **Staines Preparatory School** has held a Sponsored Spelling Drive to benefit All As One. More information on this will be included in our next newsletter!



Thanks to our first time supporters in February 2011 :

Marilyn Pedersen - Vernon Stoner & Sandi Swarhout - James & Barbara Ruble

Thank you to those who gave over \$500 in February 2011:

Team Trio - Martin & Joanna Thurmann - Mary Rossiter - Zaid Gardner & Clare Molloy

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