

DIRECTOR'S NOTE...

Deanna Wallace

AAO Executive Director

This month, I thought you might like to know a little bit more about our school, and the changes that have been made this year. We're excited, because our AAO students recently received donated uniforms, and are so proud and happy about it. This past year, we also received a generous gift from the **Bamford Foundation** (www.bamfordfoundation.org) that allowed us to keep our school operating, as well to provide an opportunity for education to many students living outside the Children's Center gates. These children come on grounds during the day to attend school, and then return to their homes afterwards. We so thrilled at the expansion of our school and the opportunity to help so many more children!



We've also had other changes this year. Since our school includes classes for pre-school through 8th grade, our older children needed to further their education at a secondary school. **Through the Bamford Foundation and other generous sponsorships, several of our older kids are now attending school at Manifest School of Excellence, a private school in Freetown.** Ahmed, one of the older children who is attending school off-grounds, recently wrote a letter I'd like to share with you:



"Hello. My name is Ahmed and I am thirteen years old. Because I am now in secondary school, All As One sends me to the Manifest School of Excellence.

"I like watching movies, reading religious books and playing games. My best sport is football (soccer) and I am very good at dribbling and scoring goals. Presently I am the best footballer at All As One. I admire footballers like Lionel Messi, Ronaldinho, and I am a fan of Barcelona though I also love Arsenal. I even wish to play for them one day. My nickname on the football field is "WINNER". I play less football right now because presently I am occupied with school work. I am preparing for my Exams. I am also learning to play tennis in my school and I am improving bit by bit.

"I want to thank you for caring about me and the kids at All As One.

*"Your friend,
Ahmed"*

I love how Ahmed's nickname is "Winner." It's fitting and apt! He's an amazing kid, who has huge potential. So many of our kids are quickly growing up and will soon be making their own way in life! I believe they are going to have a tremendous impact on leading and changing the future for Sierra Leone. Thank you for being part of this transformation, not only for our kids, but for the nation.

Please help us to continue this life-changing work. We urgently need your help NOW to cover our budget this month. Your gift can be made online at:

www.allasone.org/donate.php

Thank you for your generous love, prayers and support!



Yasmin and Steve (friends of UK Director, Ettaline Hill) recently got married, and **donated £120** as a token of their marriage. We'd like to wish a lifetime of happiness and love together, and thank them for their very thoughtful gift!



We are excited to let you know that we now have a new (and improved!) office space at the IHC offices in Dubai. We are in the process of getting things set up, and hope to have things ready soon. We will keep you posted!

ANNIE WRIGHT SCHOOL CAKEWALK

By Rachel Piatok, 6th grader

"On February 14th 2012 the kids of Annie Wright School's sixth grade held a cakewalk to raise funds for All As One. The idea came because I was looking for ideas for my Bat Mitzvah project. Rachel's teacher, Mr. Gardner, went to the teachers and faculty to ask for cakes. The whole sixth grade made posters to put around the entire school. Finally on the day of they collected all the cakes and decorations and went to the great hall. They spent the whole morning decorating and setting up the great hall. They sold tickets, played music, held a raffle and had a few auctions. Then after school they had a bake sale. They ended up making \$500. Then one girl went around her neighborhood selling bracelets and made \$50. Another girl donated \$10 and then another family donated \$100. Another person also gave \$10 so the total amount was \$670! The sixth grade did an amazing job. Great Job sixth grade! Thank you to everyone who helped make this possible!"



Rachel Piatok presented the check to AAO's Sierra Leone director, Steven Amara.

Thanks to our first time supporters in February 2012 :

Rob & Shari Early - Steve & Yasmin - Jenna Danton - Rahul Varma

Thank you to those who gave over \$500 in February 2012:

Dave & Sherry Hammond - Drew & CJ Ebersole
GEMS Royal Dubai School - Glenn & Marilyn Tosten - Jody Bolling
Mike & Ann Ryherd - Mike James & Majken Ryherd
Robert & Kathryn Roseth - Rye St. Anthony's School - Steve Drake

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

