

## DIRECTOR'S NOTE...

Deanna Wallace

*AAO Executive Director*

**Sonna** is a sweet 3-year-old girl, who came to live at the Children's Center in October 2011 (at the age of 22 months), after being abandoned by her parents. When she first came into care, she was sick with malaria, but she is now healthy and doing just fine.

Sonna's caregivers report: *"Sonna is growing into a beautiful girl. She is quiet, but sometimes becomes talkative when she is with the other toddlers and they are playing. Sonna is very affectionate and snuggly. She loves to be with the older girls, who will hold her and carry her around. She likes to be pampered a lot. Sonna is also fond of sweets – especially ginger cake, biscuits and candies."*



When I look at Sonna's *before* and *after* photos, I can't help but see the **transformation from a scared and hurting child, to a bright-eyed, curious, playful, and confident little girl**. It's seeing that kind of positive change, time and time again, that keeps me doing this work for the kids – despite all the difficulties. I hope seeing Sonna's beautiful face encourages you too.

As always (or so it seems), we're struggling to make ends meet this month. We'd really love your help in being able to continue doing this life-changing work. **I cannot stress enough how important YOU are in this transformation**. Thank you for making it all possible! Please give as generously as you can.

## UPDATE ON CHILDREN'S SURGERIES

We are thrilled to let you know that we received the funds needed for the children's urgent surgeries. One of the children (Mariama, shown here) has already had surgery, and the other two will be having their operations very soon. We are so grateful to everyone who gave! We also want to acknowledge major gifts from **Jebel Ali Hotels and Resorts** and **Colin Saldanha**. Keeping the children healthy is a top priority for us, and all of your gifts have made a huge impact in helping us to do that. **From the staff and children at All As One, thank you so much!**



## VISITOR TO THE CHILDREN'S CENTER

In February, we were happy to welcome a visitor from the US to the Children's Center in Sierra Leone. **Deepti Bherwani**, who first heard about All As One while living in Dubai, brought with her some much needed office supplies and treats for the children. The children SO enjoyed spending an afternoon with her!



## AAO UK -- THREE PEAKS CHALLENGE!

All As One UK has organized our own **Three Peaks Challenge** event, which will take place in early July 2013. For those not familiar with the Three Peaks Challenge, it consists of climbing three of the highest peaks in Scotland, England and Wales, in 24 hours. **This is an opportunity to challenge yourself, achieve something special, see some wonderful countryside, and help save the lives of children in Sierra Leone -- all at the same time!**

**DATES: 4 – 6 July** (The actual climbs will be from the late afternoon of Friday, 5 July, to the afternoon of Saturday, 6 July. We need the extra day at the beginning to get to Fort William to start with Ben Nevis peak.)

There will be a **£180 registration fee** to secure your place in the challenge. We are also asking each participant to **try to raise at least £300** for AAO UK. **Once registered, you will receive the link to our page at the Virgin Money Giving website, which is the easiest way to secure sponsorship.**

\* We will be providing round-trip transport from Solihull to Scotland, the Lake District, Snowdon and back to Solihull. There will also be space for 3 people from Oxford.

To learn more, please contact **Ettaline Hill**, UK Director, at [aaoukdirector@gmail.com](mailto:aaoukdirector@gmail.com) or by calling **0797 418 5554**.



### Thanks to our first time supporters in January & February 2013 :

Annette Mercer - Ben-Jah Jon - Colleen Konrath  
Jana Cary-Alvarez - Mariam Al-Foudery - Michelle Sinclair  
Shalini Sharma - Steven Lavine

### Thank you to those who gave over \$500 in January & February 2013:

Andre Naude - Colin Saldanha - Dave & Adrienne Battiston  
David & Sherry Hammond - David Walker & Polly Archer  
Forbes & Jean Gildersleeve - Glenn & Marilyn Tosten  
Jebel Ali International Hotels - John & Betsy Lee - Kate Curtis  
Melanie Brown Maddux - Robert Wallace - Suneeta Shetty  
Susan Norton - Yvonne Katter

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

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