

DIRECTOR'S NOTE...**Deanna Wallace****AAO Executive Director**

The children in Sierra Leone have been writing letters about themselves to share with our supporters. I hope to feature a different child and their letters in subsequent newsletters. For this month, let me introduce you to **Eric**. He's been living at the All As One Children's Center **since he was 1 year old** – and now he's just turned 9. Here's what Eric has to say about his life:



Hello,

My name is Eric. I am 9 years old. I am attending the All As One School. I am ahead of my classmates in school and already in 4th grade. Life at All As One is just perfect. I eat good food, I have the privilege to get a better education and a perfect bedroom to sleep in. I celebrate my birthday on March 6.

My favorite colours are blue and white. My favorite sport is football (soccer). My hobbies are reading story books, watching movies and dancing. I always feel happy when I pass my exams in school and when I go to outings and parties.

Thank you for your help to me.

*Love,
Eric*



Thank you so much for helping to make Eric's life so "perfect." Please consider a gift this month, to help us continue caring for Eric and so many other children who need a "perfect" home! We SO appreciate your support!

STEVEN'S DUBAI VISIT

All As One's Sierra Leone Country Director spent an incredible week in Dubai last month. Thanks to the amazing generosity of **Air Miles**, for his flight, and **Jebel Ali International Hotels (JAIH)**, for hosting his stay, he was able to visit our Dubai office for the first time. It was a whirlwind week of meetings, with many highlights and opportunities to share with others about our work in Sierra Leone.

We are thrilled that Steven was able to visit our new office at the **International Humanitarian City (IHC)**, which is our Dubai licensing organization. Steven was granted a meeting with **H.E. Shaima Al Zarooni, the Chief Executive Officer of the IHC**, and he was received very warmly. We are all very grateful for the time that was spent with Steven and the wonderful support IHC has been to our work.

Steven also visited with some of our Dubai supporters and some of the schools that have helped us over the years. Thank you to **American School of Dubai, Westminster School, and Sharjah English School** for your time.

We are also very thankful for the meeting Steven was able to have with **Dubai Duty Free Foundation**. Thank you for all the interest and support for our work.



David Thomson, Regional Manager for Jebel Ali International Hotels, truly went the extra mile to make Steven feel welcome. He was incredibly gracious and supportive of our cause. JAIH hosted an evening reception for Steven where he was able to share news about All As One and its work, with many of our corporate and private supporters. We are so grateful for this opportunity to help spread the word!

Thank you to **Geri Mitchell, our volunteer Dubai Operations Director**, for her tireless efforts in transporting Steven to all of his meetings during the week. We're also grateful to **Adrienne Battiston**, for her time in driving Steven to meetings, as well.

Suzanne McConnell, an AAO supporter from Abu Dhabi, made a special trip to Dubai just to visit with Steven. Suzanne is planning a climb of Mt. Kilimanjaro in August to celebrate her 50th birthday – and she's hoping to raise funds for All As One in the process. We hope to have more news to share about this soon.

Thank you so much to everyone who made this such a fantastic and memorable trip for Steven and All As One!




REUNION

When Steven Amara visited Dubai, he was able to see a few familiar faces of the past AAO children who have been adopted by families living in Dubai. One of the children, **Nahla** (who was called "Grace" at the Children's Center), was especially happy to see her "Uncle Steven" again. After the visit, we received a lovely note from Nahla's mom, **Selina Smyth**:

"It was all very emotional having Steven here with us in Dubai and he was overwhelmed to see Nahla, and how far she has come since the day he found her on the roadside in Freetown. Nearly 4 years later, she owes her life to this man and without him, she wouldn't be here today. Thank you, Steven, for being so special."

NAPPIES!

We hope to receive approval to send another shipment of donated nappies (diapers) in July.  in Dubai has agreed to send another air shipment, and we are extremely grateful! We hope to get the approval any day now, so if you live in Dubai, please call **Geri Mitchell** at **050 450 8360** for more information.

HELP WITH OUR NEW WEBSITE, PLEASE!

We are looking for web designers or webmasters who would like to donate their time and help on putting together a new **WordPress-based** website for All As One. Artwork and design will be provided -- but we need help to make it work! If you have skills in this area, and would like to help out a worthy cause, please write to info@allasone.org and let us know. We look forward to hearing from you!

MARJOLIJN VAN TIEL'S VISIT

The Children's Center in Sierra Leone welcomed **Marjolijn Van Tiel** for a visit last month. Marjolijn works for **Beltship Management Ltd.** in Monaco. Beltship provides shipping services for companies in Sierra Leone, and they are interested in helping All As One with the shipment of donated goods from abroad. The kids at the Center were so excited to spend time with Marjolijn, and we are very grateful for all of her support and help to us!



Thank you to our first time supporters in May 2012 :

Marjolijn Van Tiel - Joy Pinto - Leyla Gilbey - Kim Bartos
Regina O'Dwyer - Jennette Petrak - Shimizu F. Furumura

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

Glenn & Marilyn Tosten - Mark Montgomery & Irene Powell
Forbes & Jean Gildersleeve

Thank you to our corporate donors in May 2012:

*Jebel Ali International Hotels
Air Miles
Fitness First*

*Spring Coaching & Development (Tom Young & Polly Archer)
BAFCO (for the donation of office furniture in Dubai)*



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



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