

## DIRECTOR'S NOTE...

**Deanna Wallace**

*AAO Executive Director*

This month I want to update you on 8-year-old **Febian**, who came to live at the Children's Center when she was only 3 years old. I remember clearly the day I first saw Febian. While driving in Freetown, I noticed a small toddler, on the side of the road, standing with her head down and looking listless. She was all by herself. I immediately asked Steven Amara, AAO's country director in Sierra Leone, to stop the car. No adult or older child was in view. Minutes passed, but no one came to check on her. I knew I couldn't continue on to the Center without making sure she was okay. Steven started down the street to see if he could find anyone who knew about the child or where she lived. I stayed with Febian while he searched. She barely seemed to notice me. Finally, we found a neighbor, who knew someone who knew Febian. This neighbor ran off and eventually showed up with an older man, who turned out to be Febian's grandfather. He explained that he was not able to adequately care for the child's needs. He was very happy to learn about the All As One's Children's Center and the possibility of getting help for Febian. That afternoon he brought Febian into our care at the Center, and she's been with us ever since.

When she first arrived, Febian's hair was turning red – a sign of malnourishment. It took about a year for her to overcome the malnourishment, but, since that time, she has been healthy and growing well. She's now in Class 2 (2nd grade) and her teachers say she is ***"a clever girl who is doing well in her academic work. Last year, in Class 1, she was at the top of her class, and this continues in Class 2. Febian is also a Class Monitor, and is confident in leading others. She is friendly, helpful and very capable."*** I also know that Febian loves running, skipping rope, singing, and the color pink!



Thank you for helping Febian to have a much brighter future. Without your gifts and support, I would not have been able to stop and help Febian when she was alone on the roadside. YOU made that possible! Please help us to keep our doors open and available for Febian and more children like her! You can make a gift online at:

## DUBAI DUTY FREE FOUNDATION'S GIFT

We are thrilled that the **Dubai Duty Free Foundation** has given us the funds for a **mini-bus** to help with our transportation needs! We now use the bus every day, to transport the high school (secondary school) students to and from their school, take the children on outings at the weekend, and for other daily errands. It's a huge help to our ongoing work to provide for the children in our care. We are honored and thankful for Dubai Duty Free Foundation's support and belief in our work!



## JESS JUMEIRAH FUNDRAISER

The students of Year 6 at **JESS Jumeirah School** held a unique fundraiser, recently. The students were put into groups of 6 or 7, and each group came up with a product to make and sell (a bit like the TV show, "Shark Tank"). The students then held a 3-day fair at the school, and sold their products. The combined profits of the "businesses" then went to benefit All As One and the children in Sierra Leone. Together, the students raised **17,955.50 AED (\$4096)**! We are touched and grateful – and we send our sincerest thanks to the students, administration, staff, and parents at JESS who made this possible!



## RDS SWIMATHON

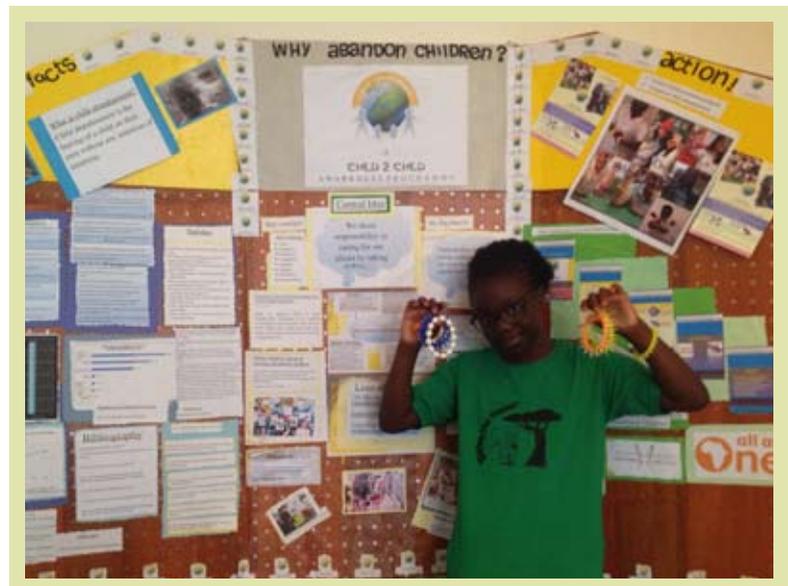
The swim squad at **GEMS Royal Dubai School** recently held their annual RDS Swimathon **in memory of Rebecca D. Strawford**, a former teacher at the school.

The event raised **6,350 AED (\$1730)**, and the students raised another **1780 AED (\$485)** in other fundraising efforts. We feel blessed and honored that the students and faculty at GEMS continue to keep Rebecca's memory alive through this annual event to benefit the children in Sierra Leone. We are so thankful.



## ANISA AHMED'S SCHOOL PROJECT

For her 5th grade exhibition project, **Anisa Ahmed** decided to cover the topic of child abandonment, and chose All As One as her featured organization. Not only did she raise much-needed awareness about this topic, but she also raised **609 AED (\$166)** for All As One! **Thank you, Anisa, for your compassion and concern for children who are less fortunate!**



## AAO UK -- THREE PEAKS CHALLENGE!

For 24 hours, on the 5th and 6th of July, a group of intrepid souls are doing the **Three Peaks Challenge**, in the UK. For anyone who doesn't know what this is, it consists of climbing up and down three of the highest peaks in Scotland, England and Wales. The mountains in question are Ben Nevis (*Scotland*), Scafel Pike (*England*) and Snowdon (*Wales*). The whole event calls for approximately 12 hours of climbing and 12 hours of driving between the mountains. They will cover 480 miles from Ben Nevis to Snowdon, which is the timed section of the challenge, and a total of over 1150 miles round trip from Oxford! There will be 5 people climbing - **Calvin Smith and two of his sons, Paddy White and Dom Dromgoole**. **Vasi Naidoo** and **Ettaline Hill** will be doing the driving.

Fundraising is going well. **Remember that every penny and pound raised goes directly to Freetown to help with the children.** Vasi and Ettaline are using their own cars and paying for the fuel, so that the maximum amount of money will go to All As One. If you would like to add to the pot of money collected, you can donate directly through Dom's **Virgin Money Giving page**, set up specifically for this fundraising event:

[www.virginmoneygiving.com/DominicDromgoole](http://www.virginmoneygiving.com/DominicDromgoole)

\* Next month, we will show photos of the tired and, hopefully, triumphant fundraisers. Please donate to spur them all on.



### Thanks to our first time supporters in May & June 2013:

Anisa Ahmed - Fareya - Keira Wilson - Liria Gjidija  
Nicola Powsney - Rajeev Daswani - Weam Hamdan

### Thank you to those who gave over \$500 in May & June 2013:

Forbes & Jean Gildersleeve - Jebel Ali Golf Resort & Spa  
Jumeirah English Speaking School (JESS)  
Mark & Heather Farrell - Martha Davis - Melanie Maddux Brown  
Robert & Joanne Lovelace - Robert Wallace  
Spring Coaching - Yvonne Katter

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

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