

HELPING ALL WE CAN...ONE AT A TIME.



DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Deanna Wallace
AAO Executive Director

I can't believe I've let so much time pass without sending a newsletter! It's been a very busy season, and it seems the months got away from me. Let me assure you that our work continues, and we are still helping the kids in Sierra Leone!

As you probably know, we're in the midst of a very difficult situation, because we are being forced to move from our current rental facility. The landlord has insisted on **increasing our rent from \$15,000, annually, to \$60,000!** Fortunately, we had the foresight a few years ago to buy land just outside Freetown, and now we're working hard to be able to build our new facility on the land, so that we don't have to rent anymore.

We have paid the landlord \$15,000 for this year, which should allow us to stay in our current home until December 2014. But, we really need to MOVE onto our land as quickly as possible. We have started a campaign to raise the funds we need, and we'd love your support! Please let me know if you'd like a copy of our building project proposal (our 10-year "big picture" plan). I'd be happy to tell you more – and I look forward to your continued support.

We are now feeding 130 every day at our current site! Our school is educating scores of children from the local community, as well as the children living in our home. We're really proud of their progress. But we MUST do MORE. Thank you for making it possible!

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THE KIDS ARE ALRIGHT 2 - UK CONCERT

On Saturday, July 12, the amphitheatre at Said Business School (Oxford) will be the stage for **The Kids are Alright 2**, a music festival featuring seven of the top bands in Oxfordshire. This was such a success last year, it is being held again, this time for the benefit of All As One UK and another local charity, SSNAP. Tickets are £10 and are available from Ettaline at aaoukdirector@gmail.com or through wegottickets.com/event/274485 (£1 booking fee).

As well as music, there will be a **raffle with great prizes**, including a £75 bottle of champagne, £50 voucher for **Jamie's** restaurant, £100 photo-shoot with **Willow and Pea** portrait photographers in Woodstock (Oxfordshire), Champagne Dinner for 2 at **The Randolph Hotel** in Oxford. Tickets are priced at £2.50 each or £10 for 5, and can be bought from Ettaline at the email address above. The drawing will be on the night -- anyone buying tickets and not attending will have their tickets included in the drawing, provided they give their name and contact telephone number.

This will be a great night -- doors open at 5:30pm, the first band is on at 6:00pm and the night will end at around 11:30pm. In the unlikely event of rain, we have the whole of the top floor of the new wing of the business school, so the show will go. Buy a ticket, bring your dancing shoes, and have a brilliant evening!



NEW WEBSITE LAUNCHED!



We're thrilled to say that we've just launched our new AAO website at allasone.org! We're grateful to **Ryan Leslie** (ryanleslie.com) and his team at **Disruptive MultiMedia** and **Corknine Development and Design** for their incredible support in donating their time, talents, and resources to put this together for us!

We also owe a huge debt of gratitude and love to AAO's Creative Director, **Jen Brauer** (jenbrauer.com) for all her work on making the site "look" like All As One. She volunteers her time and services to AAO, and has been one of our biggest blessings for the past 8 years! We love you, Jen! Thank you for making all of our artwork and design look so beautiful!

Our new site also has a mobile version, so it's very accessible on mobile devices. We're excited about keeping up with technology and hopefully making it easier for people to learn about us and begin to help the children in Sierra Leone. Please visit us soon!

DAIGLEN SCHOOL (UK) HELPS THE AAO KIDS

Rachel Thomas and some other teachers from **Daiglen School** are planning to do the **London Music 10k Run** on September 14. Other teachers involved are **Shelley Daltrey, Karen Dobinson, John Power, Ali Brooder, Zakira Patel, Paige Higgins, Anne Sydenham, Chris Haynes, Holly Lamont, James Lamont, Gordon Sutcliffe, Tina Lloyd-Morris, Sarah Morris, Joanna Harper, and Lisa Demetriou**. They have set up a VirginMoneyGiving page for the event:

▶ [CLICK HERE!](#) ◀

Daiglen School have been great supporters of All As One UK since they chose us as their international charity at the beginning of this school year. Ettaline has been to the school several times to talk to the pupils about our children in the Center, and will be going back on June 30 to pick up a check for the fundraising this year. As well as fundraising, Daiglen School have donated children's clothes and a huge number of text books and reading books to our school. All of these items are being shipped to Freetown at the end of June. The school has decided to keep All As One UK as their international charity for next academic year as well. We're so thankful!

JA RESORTS & HOTELS SUPPORTS AAO

We are very grateful for the **Big Shave-Off** global online fundraiser that **JA Resorts and Hotels** held in May. **David Thomson**, the Chief Operating Officer of JA Resorts and Hotels, along with his colleagues **Fredrik Reinisch**, Regional General Manager of UAE and Seychelles, and **Otto Kurzendorfer**, General Manager of JA Ocean View Hotel, made a commitment to shave their heads at the Arabian Travel Market, if they raised at least £10,000. Their fundraising exceeded expectations and raised **over £15,000 (\$26,000)** for the children in Sierra Leone! As promised, David, Fredrik and Otto, underwent the razor and said that it was a “hair-raising” experience. We can’t thank them enough for their amazing support!



MARATHON DES SABLES 2014

Len and Laura Collacott have now completed the grueling **Marathon Des Sables**, to raise funds for AAO! This is widely regarded as the toughest foot race in the world.

From Laura:

They call day five in the Marathon des Sables camp zombie day. And for good reason. The great, tented, travelling circus - home to over 1,000 competitors and 500 support staff for a week - is awash with people lurching, staggering and heaving themselves over the sand under the blazing sun. Many of them wearing only underwear in a bid to keep cool. We're among them (though we've got our clothes on). It's the day after 'the biggie', the long day when participants run, march, walk, crawl - whatever it takes - 81.5km across the Saharan desert. It takes its toll on even the hardiest of bodies and our Achilles are so swollen that we have to walk on tiptoes for the first hour of the morning until we limber up. Blisters have appeared on blisters. We're exhausted and we're dirty.



pace. But you can see a long way on the plains of the Sahara and while it appears tantalisingly close, it still takes us close to 45 minutes to fall over the line and collapse into our tent. We knew it was going to be hard. The heat and terrain made this harder than we could ever have imagined. But it's amazing what you can do when you put your mind to it. We've raised around £8,000 (\$13,500) for All As One too!

Laura and Len, we are so proud of you and your accomplishment! Thank you for all the help you've given to the children in Sierra Leone!

Doing a marathon tomorrow is the last thing on anyone's mind: over the last four days we've covered 180km of sand and rock. But that's just what we'll have to do.

The MDS is a race that requires as much mental strength as physical. Driving yourself on when all you want to do is sit down and kick off your shoes is the key to success.

In the preceding three days, record numbers of competitors have had to withdraw due to blisters and heatstroke. We've seen drips being administered under the shade of 4x4s at the side of the track. We don't want to be one of those casualties so we meticulously monitor our water consumption, sipping isotonic drink every few minutes.

With 5km to go, your mind starts playing tricks on you. I see a Scout mistress waving people through and have to shake the illusions from my head. Suddenly we see the inflatable arch of the finish line. Hallelujah! We pick up our

A&P FALMOUTH ABSEILING FOR AAO

A&P Falmouth's managing director, **Peter Child**, tested his nerves on May 22nd, when he joined a dozen others to abseil (or rappel) down the largest dry dock on the UK's south coast. He and **Adrian Richards**, Chief Executive of BF Adventure in Penryn, were the first to test the ropes 50 feet above the huge dry dock at A&P Falmouth, which is 40 m (44 yd) wide and 253 m (277 yd) long.

The event raised money for BF Adventure and AAO, A&P's charity of the year. Mr Child said: "Given my lack of head for heights this was a definite challenge to be met, but the BF team were excellent, and we are already planning the next event with them. All as One Orphanage is a charity close to A&P's heart and we were delighted that we were able to raise money for them".

A&P (www.ap-group.co.uk), in partnership with Beltship (www.beltship.com), is also sending a shipment of supplies and sports equipment to Sierra Leone at the end of this month. We are so grateful for these generous supporters!



Thanks to our first time supporters from January through May 2014:

Aleksandra & Maija Laine - Alia Alikhan - Cara Christopher - Daniel Grimm - David Roberts - Imtinan Haddad - Linda Creaney
Mark Albrecht - Martin Cable - Mary Bradfield - Paul McConnell - Rachel Thomas - Rasheed Richmond - Ryan McConnell
Shelley Daltrey

Thank you to those who gave over \$500 from January through May 2014:

Agility Dubai - Andre Naude - Benjamin & Shirley Ebersole - Beryl Robert - Brian Ebersole - Dave and Adrienne Battiston
David & Sherry Hammond - Drew & CJ Ebersole - Elizabeth Williams - Elliot & Beth Raizes - Emile & Anne-Marie Moukarzel
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Laura & Len Collacott - Leonard and Marilyn Pitt - Mark & Heather Farrell - Martha Davis - Mary Bolling - Melanie Brown Maddux
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Robert Wallace - Sharon Beecham - TeamTrio - Tom Young - WestConME Group - Yvonne Katter - Zaid Gardner & Claire Molloy

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

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