

## DIRECTOR'S NOTE...

**Deanna Wallace**

**AAO Executive Director**

In June and July, the Children's Center had a familiar face return for a visit! Ibrahim Dickey, a senior at Saint Mary's University in Minnesota, did his summer internship program with All As One. Back in 2002-2003, Ibrahim was an AAO kid, who was eventually adopted to the US. We were thrilled when Ibrahim contacted us and asked if he could come back to the Center to help the children who are there now. It was also very special for the children to meet Ibrahim (only a couple of kids who had known Ibrahim are still there), and to know that he'd once been "just like them."

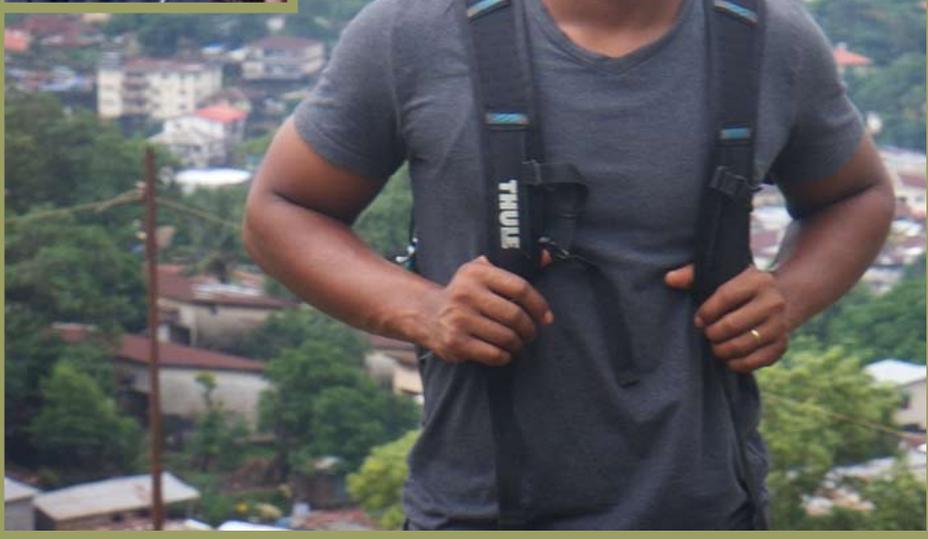
As part of his internship work, Ibrahim kept a journal of his observations and feelings. I thought it would be great for you, as supporters of our work, to hear from him. Ibrahim has allowed me to share some of his thoughts here:

*"My first day back at All As One Children's Center brought back so many great memories. I was very much touched to see how happy and energetic the children were. Even though these children are little, I know most of them view life there similarly to the way I did when I lived at the orphanage. Although only a few children remembered me, those that didn't know who I was were so warm and welcoming.*

*During my first week I have had the chance to not only learn about the Sierra Leone educational system, but I have also had an opportunity to work with the children who are now in the same position that I was ten plus years ago. Although my first week at the All As One Academy also happened to be a busy week for the children as a result of their third term examinations, I still had opportunities to work with them. All As One has [also] opened its school to the immediate community, and educates these kids with nothing asked for in return.*

*These children are given two meals every day of the week and are not treated any differently compared to the children who live in the orphanage. It's inspiring to see such work being done, however I can't help but want to assist to increase the success rate of the curriculum.*

*This internship has already had a big impact in my future, because I look at these children and I can see myself in most of them, which tells me that I have truly come a long way and I still have a long way to go. I have not only come a long way in my schooling, but also in understanding the world around me."*



Thank you, Ibrahim, for being such a great role-model, and for caring enough about All As One to want to come "home" and make a difference for the kids there now! We love you!

## NEW GENERATOR

Thank you so much to **Beltship** for donating a new generator to the Children's Center! It's been years since we've had a reliable source of electricity – and this gift makes such a huge difference for the children! It's especially wonderful in the evening, because it allows the kids the opportunity to study -- and the kids feel much safer at night. We are VERY grateful!



## ALL AS ONE APP

All As One now has an app for smartphones! It's available for the iPhone now, and will be available soon for Android phones, on Amazon and Google Play. You can search for it under "All As One." Please download it – and help us spread the word! A big thank you to **Kelly Barker** and **Picture Healing**, for donating this app!

## AAO UK -- THREE PEAKS CHALLENGE!

On July 4, **Calvin Smith, Dom Dromgoole, Patrick White** and **Zac O'Brien**, along with drivers **Vasi Naidoo** and **Ettaline Hill**, left Solihull in the UK, and drove to the Fort William, at the foot of Ben Nevis in Scotland. After an overnight stay at the Fort William Youth Hostel, Calvin, Dom, Patrick and Zac began their climb of Ben Nevis, the highest mountain in the British Isles. Five and a half

hours later, they had successfully gone to the peak and back down, safely. Everyone piled into the two cars, and headed south to the Lake District and Scafell Pike, the highest mountain in England, at 3209 feet. They reached there at 2:15am, and the climb to the summit started in pitch darkness. This time the climb was completed in less time than anticipated, and they were on the road again by 6.20am, headed to Wales and the highest mountain -- Snowdon. Even with the narrow Welsh roads and traffic, the group was able to complete the challenge in the required 24 hours, with 20 minutes to spare!

Many congratulations to our climbers, for this momentous achievement, and to our drivers, for making it all possible! So far we have raised a total of **£915.25**, with some more sponsorship still to come! Thank you!



## RENT DILEMMA

As some of you already know, the children in our care are facing a very urgent situation. **Our landlord in Sierra Leone is tripling our rent from \$15,000 to \$45,000, effective now. Since we can't meet this new demand, we are being evicted from the property come December 2013.** We think it's time to "roll up our sleeves" and raise the funds to build a new home for the children on the land we've already purchased in the Freetown-area. From cost estimates in Sierra Leone, it'll take **\$150,000** in order to build this new home.

WE NEED YOUR HELP! All As One is now signed up for a one-month fundraising challenge at:

[www.crowdrise.com/orphansneedanewhome/fundraiser/allasone](http://www.crowdrise.com/orphansneedanewhome/fundraiser/allasone)

- \* CrowdRise will award \$75,000 to the organization raising the most money during the challenge. There are \$50,000 and \$25,000 prizes as well. The site is also offering various incentives, throughout the month, for AAO and supporters. Check our Facebook page for updates ([www.facebook.com/AllAsOne](http://www.facebook.com/AllAsOne)).

Please forward this link to your family, friends and business associates – and don't forget to post it on your social media sites, as well! Thank you for your tremendous compassion and support. We'll keep you posted!

Ibrahim Dickey, with the All As One kids, during his visit in June & July.



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

A.D. Farber - Charles & Tammy Piatok - Karen & Stanley Bloustine - Yasmin Shah

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

Arun Kumar - Beltship - Colin Saldanha - Ettaline Hill - Fitness First - Forbes & Jean Gildersleeve - GEMS Royal Dubai School  
Glenn & Marilyn Tosten - JA Resorts & Hotels - John & Betsy Lee - Melanie Maddux Brown - Robert Wallace - Royal Park Tourism  
Spring Coaching - WestConME Group - Yvonne Katter

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

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