

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

### DIRECTOR'S NOTE

**Deanna Wallace**  
AAO Executive Director

**I'm thrilled to update you on David!** He has had his surgery, and is doing well! It was amazing how it all happened. Our wonderful supporter **Showers Jalloh** shared David's need with his friends. One of his friends, **Nissrine Shuman**, contacted him to say that her uncle, **Dr. Salim Shuman**, had a hospital in Freetown, and **would do the surgery for free!**

We got in touch with Dr. Shuman, and David had surgery the next day. What an incredible blessing! Pictured here is Dr. Shuman (on the left) and one of the hospital staff (on the right) with David, after surgery. We asked Dr. Shuman if it was okay to tell people about his wonderful gift to David, and he said, **"Yes, but that's not why I did it. I did it to God."**

**We are overwhelmed by the loving hearts of all who came together to make this happen for David!**

There were also **many others** who sent special donations for David's surgery. I contacted each one, individually, with news of the surprising outcome for David, and they all graciously gave us permission to use their gifts for our other pressing needs. **We appreciate this so very much!**

With David's surgery and all of the recent holiday activities, the kids and staff have had a busy month. I wanted to share more photos with you. Here are the children enjoying a feast at their Christmas Day party...



And here are some of the kids beaming in their new football kits, brought to them by our dear **Azania Noah**, AAO Swiss Director...



**On to more BIG news — there are now 157 students enrolled in our school!** I can't believe how much we've grown! We have **60 boys** and **97 girls** in grades K-6. The predominance of girls is on purpose. We really want to make sure that the "girl child" of Sierra Leone gets an education. Our students are some of the kids we have in our care, but most of them are children from impoverished communities in the vicinity of the Children's Center. We educate the children free of charge, and provide them with lunch (and sometimes breakfast).

Of course, this education isn't really "free," and that's where you come in. We're amazed that our school has grown so much, and are excited that the children are getting an education. You've made that possible! But we completely rely on you for our needs, and those needs grow as we help more children. **Please consider giving as generously as you can. Isn't it amazing what we can do together?** Your gifts make all the difference in so many children's lives!

### **Thanks to those who gave over \$500 in December 2019:**

Dr. Al Roberts - Autumn Huiatt - Drew & CJ Ebersole - Eula & Kerry Ramroop - Jamilah Rashid - Sharon Beecham

### **Thanks to our first time donors in December 2019:**

Alan Thomas - Andrea Vogt - Celia Stuart - Diana Milan - Louise Williams

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