

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

## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Deanna Wallace  
AAO Executive Director

As most of you probably know, our Children's Center is located in Freetown, the capital city of Sierra Leone. And I want to tell you a little about what is happening in Freetown right now.

I think it's important to have a sense of where the children actually live, as well as an inkling of what life is like for most Sierra Leoneans. **It's an understatement to say that life is hard there.** The truth is that it is unimaginably horrific on so many levels. The poverty and absence of basic human needs is appalling.

One reality in Freetown (a city of 1.5 million people) is that people spend half of the year worrying that monsoon-like rains will wash their houses from the hillside into the rivers of waste that flow through the city. The other half of the year, there is most often barely enough water to fill a pot. Thousands of people live with no plumbing, and fetch water from streams. With the flooding comes contaminated water, and disease follows. **No matter what time of year it is, water is ALWAYS a problem.**

➤ Right now, it's the rainy season, and flash flooding has once again caused a humanitarian crisis for Sierra Leone. *(At right is a photo of flooding in Freetown earlier this month.)* **People are dying, many have lost their homes and their livelihoods, and the abject poverty continues.**

In the midst of it all, our Children's Center stands as a small haven for the most vulnerable orphaned and abandoned children. **We do our very best against great odds to make sure the kids stay safe from the flooding and also have enough water for the other half of the year.** It's a constant struggle to make sure the kids have clean drinking water and enough clean water to use for washing and cooking. And it all comes at a significant cost. So we need your help to keep our kids safe, including the ones who come to the Center each day for school and food.

**Please join our family of support by becoming a monthly donor or making a one-time gift. We can't do our work without you.**



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

Daiglen School - Yvonne Katter

**Thanks to our first-time donor in July 2019:**

Melany Ardouin

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