

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

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Deanna Wallace
AAO Executive Director

This month, I'm happy to introduce you to **Abigail**, who's been living at the Children's Center for the past nine years, after being found abandoned at the age of about three. She was a scared toddler, but now she's a beautiful young woman, entering junior secondary school (junior high). She is a brilliant girl with a really loving personality. Although she can be a bit shy and quiet, she is friendly and very personable. Her teacher says *"she is always smiling."* She gets along great with the other kids, and is especially kindhearted to the younger children. In her free time, she loves to skip rope, play cards and read.

As I look back over Abigail's progress and the years of her becoming the wonderful girl she is now, I have mixed emotions. I'm so proud of her, and happy that we've been able to make a difference in her life up to this point. **But I'm really concerned about our ability to continue raising Abigail and the other children in our care.**

Through several factors out of our control, our annual funding has been reduced by more than half. We **MUST** find new ways to make up this shortfall. We truly need all of our supporters to help us spread the word and raise awareness (and funds), so that we can keep operating. **This month, we need another \$5000, immediately.**



I've essentially been saying the same thing every month, but it continues to be true. With your gifts, we've made it this far, and I know that you care so much about the kids in Sierra Leone. You've made our work possible over the past sixteen years. Thank you! **Please help us find the funding we need for the future, and give as generously as you can today.** The children's futures depend on it!

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ALL of AAO's staff, outside Sierra Leone, are volunteers. That means every donation given to AAO goes to help the children in Sierra Leone, directly.



Thanks to our first time donor in August 2016:

Hayley Crow

Thanks to those who gave over \$500 in August 2016:

Ahsan Abbas - Chris Briers - Sharon Beecham

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

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All As One
P. O. Box 4903
Spanaway, WA 98387

Phone: 1.253.846.0815
Fax: 1.253.846.0815
Email: info@allasone.org
Website: www.allasone.org

**U
K**

All As One
88 Fern Hill Road
Oxford OX4 2JP

Phone: 01865.716095
Email: ukinfo@allasone.org

**U
A
E**

All As One
P. O. Box 509019
Dubai, UAE

Phone: 971.4.311.6707
Fax: 971.4.332.8810
Email: info@aaodubai.org
Website: www.aaodubai.org