

DIRECTOR'S NOTE...

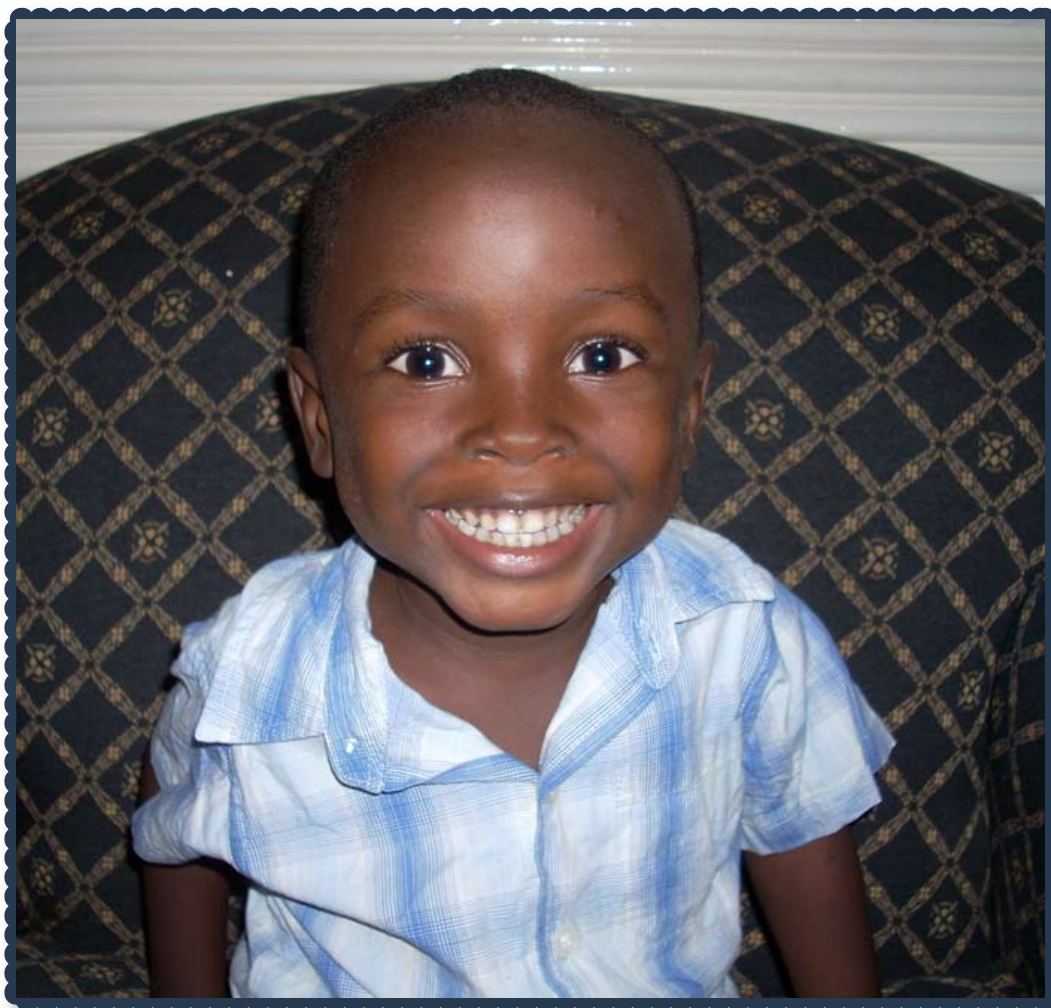
Deanna Wallace, AAO Executive Director

The Children's Center is abuzz with excitement and anticipation of the holidays. Special menus are being planned, the staff are shopping for just the right ingredients, and the children are practicing their holiday music and drama performance. You can just imagine how much laughter and joy there is when the kids put on their own Nativity play! It's an All As One annual (and classic) event, complete with shepherds dressed in old sheets, King Herod with a paper crown, and Mary saying, "the pain, the pain," over and over again, just before delivering baby Jesus! I guess you can safely say it is not your average Christmas play!

We're so excited, because the children will be celebrating with two parties this year -- one on Christmas and one on New Year's Day. ***Because of your lovely generosity and gifts, they will also be receiving new clothing, shoes and toys on Christmas.*** In addition, the kids will celebrate with lots of happy music, singing and dancing! We can't wait to share some of the holiday photos with you in our next newsletter!

We also want to let you know that baby Joya, who was featured in our October newsletter, is doing better now. After being in the hospital for awhile, and having many tests run, she is now back at the Children's Center and doing well at this time. Your faithful support this year that has made it possible for us to continue to save so many children's lives (like Joya's) – and also put us on the brink of a major expansion of our work in Sierra Leone, with the purchase of our own land in Grafton!

The children and staff in Sierra Leone want me to pass along their warmest greetings and happiest wishes for the best of the holiday season! God bless you and yours, and may all the joy and help you've given to us be returned to you many times over, and just when you need it most!



Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!

2009 AAO Calendar is here!

All As One is very excited to launch its first ever calendar filled with inspirational and heart-warming pictures of the children of the AAO Children's Center. A perfect present for this special, festive time, or a unique calendar for the year ahead, the 2009 calendars are now available for only **AED 25** with **100% of the price going directly to the Children's Center**.

All As One would like to thank **Xerox** for the complimentary printing of the calendar, and all of the staff at **Xerox Burjuman** for their support and good will, enabling us to produce the calendar free of charge.

Call **Jocelyn (050 676 8290)** or **Geri (050 450 8360)** to place your order or for further information.



GREAT WAYS YOU ARE HELPING THE KIDS!



Brownie Troop Raising Funds: The 1st Springs Dubai Brownies (*pictured at left*) set up a table at the DBS Festive Frolics event, and raised an amazing AED 970 which they have used to sponsor a child from All As One. The Brownies made decorations for the stall, hand crafted beautiful gift sets to sell and, of course, traditional home cooked brownies, which proved to be very popular.

American School of Dubai Swim-A-Thon: A huge thank you to the students, faculty, administration and parents at American School of Dubai for their support of AAO through the recent swim-a-thon. Held in November, it raised over Dh 11,000 for the children in our care!

Moments Photos donating to AAO: Sandra Metaxas and Amanda Martin, the owners of Moments Photos, are donating a portion of their proceeds to All As One and the children in Sierra Leone. We are extremely grateful!

Geri Mitchell's garage sale: Raised over Dh 1600 in November!

Kershaw Leonard and Mike Hynes, Managing Director: Donated toward the children's Christmas party in Sierra Leone! The special party foods are already being planned and purchased!

Safa Park Flea Market: Thanks to everyone who braved the wet weather and huge floods to support the AAO stall. We also want to send a big thank you to Jocelyn Clarke, Nicola Gregson and Beth Lewis, who helped in making this a success! The stall will be open again at the next flea market the first Saturday in January 2009!



DHL Shipment of Dubai Donations Reaches Sierra Leone in Time For Christmas

Thank you so much to all of you who donated clothing, blankets, shoes, school supplies, toys and so many other wonderful gifts to the children in Sierra Leone!

DHL has once again done a stellar job of delivering the boxes to Freetown and the children are now getting so excited for Christmas! We appreciate all the wonderful support!



The Springs Montessori Nursery, Raffles International School Picnic

By Julie Wilson, Vice Principal

On Thanksgiving Day, 27th November, we hosted a picnic in our nursery garden to help support The Children's Centre in Sierra Leone. We all felt that since we are very privileged to live in such an affluent environment, it is important for our children to appreciate that not every child is as fortunate as themselves.

We decided to opt for asking our children at the Nursery to donate one of their own toys, as we thought this would have more impact on them than buying and giving a new toy. Indeed on the day of the picnic, the children told us about the toys they were giving and then happily popped them into the collection boxes.

The event would not have been possible without the support of our amazing parents, who bought along culinary delights from across the world. Thanks also go out to the staff team here who organized fun activities to keep the children busy.

It was a great day for everybody and we all went home feeling that we had helped a bit towards making someone else's life a little richer.



DUBAI MARATHON



We want to encourage as many people as possible to consider fundraising for All As One, by participating in the **Dubai Marathon** or associated **Fun Run**. Information about this event, being held on **January 16, 2009**, is available at www.dubaimarathon.org. On that site, you can sign up for the actual marathon (open to 18 years or older), the 10 Km road race (open to 15 years or older), or the 3 Km Fun Run (open to all ages).

Along with participation in the run, you can also raise funds for All As One by getting sponsors to back your participation. We've made it easy for you to get donations through our dedicated fundraising web site at www.firstgiving.com/allasone. Click on the "Get Started" button and follow the steps to create your own fundraising web page! It's free to set up, and once you've gotten your own web page, you can invite everyone you know to donate and sponsor you in the race! You can also use this Firstgiving site for other fundraising events you might like to participate in – so please check it out!



Holiday Gift Idea to Benefit the Children in Sierra Leone

Brighten the holidays for the kids in Sierra Leone by giving a gift of sponsorship to the special people on your list!

We continue to need your support and really appreciate you telling your friends about us! When you give the gift of an annual sponsorship, the recipient will receive a personalized card, announcing your gift. Soon after, they will receive a photo and information about the child to whom they've been assigned.

This is a gift that continues to give throughout the year, and one that promises to be remembered. To purchase your gift, visit our web site, and click on the "donate" button. From that page, you can click on the "Special Occasion Giving" link to write your gift message.

www.aadubai.org/donate.php

Thank you to our regular monthly donors, who make our work possible!

Thanks to our first time donors in November:

Alan & Susan Schulkin - Amber Lessard - Carolyn Busch - Constance Swank - Dana Robinson Slotte - Daniel Jack Greenwald III
Daryl & K.L. Lambert - David Dyson & Suzanne Hollingsworth - Deborah Dyson - Diane Baer - Donald Chamberlain - Frank Chopp
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Maureen Kostyack & Jonathan Oliver - Phyllis Kenney - Regie Roth - Richard Esposito & Marie-Joelle Simond - Robin Landy Amadon
Sharon Sanz - Shelley McDonald - Tina Abbott & Debra Fecht - Valerie Moreau Jreijiri - William Rumpf & Eve Rumpf-Sternberg

A special thanks to the following supporters for donations over \$500 in November:

American School of Dubai (Swim-A-Thon) - Collette & Brian Golberg - Douglas G. & Helen Wade - Marion Rodrigue - Yvonne Katter
Solon Schools / Susan Drummond's class - Zakia Demaghelatrous

And a special thank you to Jody Bolling for her extraordinary gift. We are so VERY grateful!

We would also like to thank our corporate donors:



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