

## DIRECTOR'S NOTE...

**Deanna Wallace**

*AAO Executive Director*

Life in Sierra Leone continues to be a challenge. Living in the least developed country in the world during a global economic crisis, is very scary and disheartening. ***The children's futures are at risk, and we need your help now, more than ever.*** If at all possible, we ask that you continue your support for our work during this critical time. We greatly appreciate it!

On a brighter note, I'm happy to report that all the children at the Children's Center are feeling well. We've battled a season of the common cold that seemed to just keep spreading – but we're on the other side of that now.

***I'm also really excited to let you know how our darling Aron is doing.*** If you remember, he's the little boy who came to us with hydrocephaly, and through your support we sent him to Nigeria for medical care. Over the past several months, we've all marveled at Aron's progress. He

is growing into a sweet and happy one-year-old, who is starting to talk and sing (and also loves to play the drums). His head circumference has stayed the same, and it seems that his body is now starting to catch up to his head. We are very encouraged with his improvements, and want you to know how grateful we are for your help in caring for him! ***Last year, doctors did not give him a very good chance of survival – but he is so far proving them all wrong!***



***We really want to be able to keep our doors open, so that we can continue to rescue children like Aron.*** Please remember us with your gifts and prayers in the coming days, weeks, and months. We are truly dependent on your support in order to keep going. God bless you for all the ways you have sacrificed and supported us in the past – and thank you for all your help now. ***We are forever grateful.***

## February Happenings:

Our wonderful volunteers raised **Dh 3750** at the Safa Park Flea Market in February (pictured at right)! **A big, big thank you to Heather, Geri, Lolita, Saru and Jocelyn for their help!**



**Sharjah English School** has been working extremely hard to raise money for All As One as its annual nominated charity. This month, All As One was given a donation for **over DH 3,500** from the primary school, which has raised funds through organising fun activities, such as non-uniform days. **Money was also collected by the school's enthusiastic staff** who ran this year's Dubai marathon for our cause.

**Beth Lewis**, from **Fifth Ring**, our pro bono PR agency in Dubai, went to accept the donation at the school on our behalf. While there, she spoke to the children, who ranged from five to eleven years old, about the charity and the work we're doing. The children enjoyed hearing all about the Children's Center in Sierra Leone, and asked many questions about the children and their day to day lives.

We would like to thank all at Sharjah English School for their great effort and much needed donation, and we look forward to speaking to the children once again about All As One in the future.



A few months ago, the primary children of **Victoria English School** in Sharjah sent about **200 envelopes filled with gifts** for the children of All As One. The envelopes were beautifully decorated, and each carried a personal message to their friends at the Center. Recently we sent VES some photographs of the children receiving their gifts, and this was their response: *"It was so nice to see the kids faces and big smiles, and all the staff here were so thrilled to see them. We are putting up a big display of the photos in the school for the kids to see. They will be so happy to see the envelopes that they decorated with the child who received it. It will mean so much more to them."*

It is heartwarming to see children truly caring about other children, wanting to do whatever they can to bring a smile to their faces!



## WE CAN ALL DO A LITTLE

By Gill & Tony McIver



Mention the word "charity" and watch many peoples' eyes glaze over! Unfortunately, as each of us knows, not all funds reach the people in need and, therefore, some of us are a little wary of supporting charities. To me, supporting and helping children is a way of giving a little something back.

The first time we visited an orphanage was 3 ½ years ago in Cambodia, when we went to meet our daughter, Ella (pictured at left), for

the first time. Seeing how basic the homes for these beautiful children are, overwhelmed me with sadness. Why? Because all children deserve and need love, shelter and security. We will never be able to change the situation in the short term, but by a large number of people helping a little, we can certainly make a big difference.

I became aware of All As One around the same time, and I have met some beautiful children from Sierra Leone. All As One is desperate for funds, and from the beginning, I realised that any funds or donations of clothes, toys or cash was actually reaching the orphanage directly. It is so important that they get a large number of people to each do "just a little." It might be a cash donation, a box of crayons and a book, but, we can all DO A LITTLE - that may not mean much to us, but it could change a life!

**AAO Note:** Gill is a wonderful AAO supporter, and owns Cut and Shape Hair Salon in Dubai. We are really grateful!



## SAVE THE DATE!



### AAO Quiz Night

The long awaited AAO quiz night is back!!!

**Thursday, 19th March,  
at the Courtyard  
Marriot, in Green  
Community.**

There will be lots of great prizes! Keep this date free -- more details to follow.



## How to help...



**Sponsor the kids** – For only 4 dirhams a day, you can change the life of a child. As a sponsor, you'll receive a photo and information on a child whose life you've helped to save. To sign up, go to

[www.aadubai.org/dirhams.php](http://www.aadubai.org/dirhams.php)!



**Give a one-time gift or an annual sponsorship** in honor of an occasion, or in memory of a loved one. You can give online at

[www.aadubai.org/donate.php](http://www.aadubai.org/donate.php).



**Be part of our expanded vision** for building a better home, community school and medical center for the children and families of Sierra Leone. If you'd like more information, write to [info@aadubai.org](mailto:info@aadubai.org).

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

### *Thanks to our first time donors in February:*

Amy Maikkula - Dora Velikova - Jerry & Emily Woolf - Lucinda Hay - Maxine Allen - Nathalie Khalaf - Paul Bell - Paul Kim Peter Barnes - Sally Meech - Sheila Lebrato - Sheila Mayhorn - Susan Lopez - Thomas Richler

### *And thank you to those who donated over \$500 in February:*

Colin Saldanha  
Gavin Lister  
Deepak Commercial Brokerage  
Glenn & Marilyn Tosten  
James Wallace  
Mark & Heather Farrell  
Sarah Lewis  
Yvonne Katter



**Thank you, also, to  
Keith Flanagan, from  
Al Ghurair Group, for the  
donation of t-shirts!**

