

DIRECTOR'S NOTE...

Deanna Wallace
AAO Executive Director

A beautiful, five-month-old girl (*pictured here*) is our newest arrival at the Center. This sweet baby, whose name is **Blessing**, is suffering from **kwashiorkor**, a virulent form of childhood malnutrition that results when there is not enough protein in the diet. It is most common in poor countries, where there is limited food supply and low levels of education (because people do not understand the importance of a proper diet). In Blessing's case, she was fed only corn starch mixed with water in her bottle, since infant formula was too expensive! This severe malnutrition required Blessing to be immediately admitted to the hospital once she came into our care. She has been there for almost two weeks, and will probably be there for another week or so.

Right now, Blessing's condition is life-threatening. And because of your support for All As One, we can help Blessing fight for her life.

It is not an exaggeration to say that your donations actually save children's lives. In the past nine years, most of the children coming into care have been on the verge of death. And several hundred children who have passed through our doors have survived only because of AAO's intervention. I've witnessed miracle after miracle. **On behalf of Blessing, and others like her, I want to thank you for your support.**

But, I want to urgently plead for you to continue, or even increase, your help now. We don't have a large reserve of funds in which to operate, and we are heading toward the summer months. This is generally a time when giving drops off as people go on vacations. ***During this same time, however, we face increasing needs for our services in Sierra Leone.*** Many of our new children will require hospital admissions, which are costly. The months of June – August comprise the worst of the rainy season in Sierra Leone, and living conditions for everyone worsen. The roads become rivers of mud that are almost impassable. Lack of sanitation means disease is rampant, and the already small food supply becomes even more scarce.



We expect this year to be particularly difficult, as we are already seeing an increase in the number of children desperately needing our help. We want to continue to provide the best possible care for the children in care now, and also keep our doors open for the others who will need us in the coming weeks and months. But, we can't do it without your help! Please remember us this summer with your generous support – and don't forget to tell others about us too! Maybe you can recruit a few friends to join our sponsorship program, or hold a garage sale and donate the proceeds to AAO. You might even consider creating your own fundraising event and webpage, using www.firstgiving.com/allasone.



Whatever you can give will be used to save as many lives as possible. God bless you!

Children's Party

The children had a wonderful party in April to celebrate Easter, April birthdays for the children, and Sierra Leone's 48th Independence Day!

The kids enjoyed a fun day, with a feast of holiday foods specially prepared by our wonderful staff cooks. The menu included a club salad, seafood pasta salad, fried chicken, couscous, spicy rice with beef, birthday cake and treats!



After enjoying their meal, the kids danced like crazy to popular Sierra Leonean music. It was a **GREAT** day for them, and they went to bed exhausted and stuffed!

We want to say thank you to those who gave toward our holiday treat fund, and a special thank you to *Fitness First* for their donation that covered the soft drinks and sweets!



AAO Hero!

We are very happy to introduce you to Dr. Jody Oomen-Early (PhD, MS), who is currently volunteering as All As One's Grants Director. Dr. Oomen-Early is a professor in the Health Studies Department at Texas Woman's University in Denton, TX. She is also a tireless supporter of All As One's work in Sierra Leone. We are thrilled to have Jody's tremendous creativity, enthusiasm, professionalism, and talent on board to help AAO! Jody and her volunteer team of graduate students have been busy researching, writing, and submitting grant proposals on behalf of AAO. We are so grateful for this support! Thank you, Jody, for being an inspiration and a true hero to the children in Sierra Leone!

Annual Horizon School Dinner Dance in Dubai

Friday, 29th May, 2009
Ballroom at Al Murooj Rotana Hotel
7:30 pm – Late

Dress: Black Tie/Formal/National Dress (and bring your dancing shoes)

Tickets: Dhs 250 per head

Ticket enquiries to Cathy Forbes at 050.651.3024, or cathy@biz-ability.com.

Horizon School has been a wonderful supporter of All As One in the past and we encourage everyone to attend!

Set Menu consists of:

Starter: Tomato and buffalo mozzarella salad with argula pesto dressing

Main Course: Roasted baby chicken in a light lemon herb butter sauce with sauteed vegetables and roasted potatoes

Dessert: White chocolate terrine garnished with fresh berries

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

Thanks to our first time donors in April:

Annette Glorney - Donna Skoreyko - Hayley Scott - L. Jay Pearson - Penn State Class of 2009 - Stacie Vander Slaak

And thank you to those who donated over \$500 in April:

Anonymous - British Business Group - Dana Al Khalili - Lisa Harwood - Moments Photos, Dubai - Children's Hope Foundation, Dubai
Jane Trower, who had her wedding guests donate to All As One in lieu of gifts



Courtyard Marriott, Dubai, for donating the proceeds from their employee raffle.



Hayley Ross & Crocs for donating 50 pairs of shoes for the children!

