

## DIRECTOR'S NOTE...

**Deanna Wallace**  
*AAO Executive Director*

All As One has been working for the children of the Sierra Leone for the past ten years. During that time, many of our children have grown from infants to school-age children, and from toddlers to adolescents. **The girls featured here came to us at ages 6 and 8, and now they are beautiful teenagers!**



Sometimes people ask, ***“What happens to the children of AAO once they grow up?”*** The answer to that question is as varied as the children in our care. Some will leave AAO to attend university, some will go to technical college, others will choose to get a job, some will marry, and some will stay at AAO indefinitely, because they are disabled and need continual care into adulthood. We don't have a “now you're 18, so you're on your own” rule. All As One is a true family, and the kids will leave us for the same kinds of reasons that other children leave their families to begin their adult lives. And, no matter what choices the kids make, AAO will be there to support them in all the ways needed, until they can eventually become self-sufficient. **We're in it for the long haul – they are OUR kids!**

I often wonder what these children's lives would have been like without All As One – and I know that although life hasn't been easy for them, it would have been a lot more difficult without AAO. Unlike the vast majority of children in Sierra Leone, they have been able to receive an education, have regular medical care, and enjoy enough food to eat every day, since coming into care. They also now have a family – the AAO family – to love, support, and care for them into adulthood. That's a really priceless gift.

**You have made it all possible, and I want to thank you for being there for the children, so that they have hope for the future. Thank you for being such an important part of the children's lives and the AAO family! We SO appreciate you!**

# NEWS!

In honor of teacher appreciation week, we want to especially thank our All As One teachers in Sierra Leone for their dedication and commitment to the education of the children in our care. Our school is now accredited and we have a small school building with 5 classrooms on our compound in Marjay Town, Freetown. We are looking forward to building our new **community school** near Grafton, Sierra Leone in the coming months, and being able to expand our school to include up to 300 students from the local community. Thank you so much to our terrific teachers for their hard work! (Pictured at right is our kindergarten teacher, with some of her pupils.)



**AAO UK is putting the finishing touches to arranging our first All As One event in the UK.** We will be

sponsoring a showing of the film, *Blood Diamond*, at the **Soho Sanctum Hotel** in central London on Saturday, **September 11, 2010**. This is a lovely venue, with a dedicated cinema space that holds up to 45 people. We will be providing supper and drinks, as well as the showing of the film, for an all-inclusive price. Please contact our UK office at [ukinfo@allasone.org](mailto:ukinfo@allasone.org) for more details of the event and to book your place!

**AAO UK has a fun event coming up in Northern Ireland on June 4.** All As One supporter, **Joi Dougherty** is organizing a **Race Night** with several of her work colleagues. Last week, our volunteer UK Director, **Ettaline Hill**, was with Joi, promoting the event. They even managed to get a slot on a local radio station!



**Oakley College** in Gran Canaria (Canary Islands) recently got in touch with us to say that their Year 6 students had been doing a project on refugees, and while searching for information on the internet, had found All As One. The kids, staff and parents then held a couple of fundraising events – a **Halloween Celebration** and a **Bring and Buy Sale** – and, all together, Oakley College raised **2,800 Euros (over \$4000)** for the children in Sierra Leone! These funds have already gone to Sierra Leone to be used in the care of our children. We all want to say a huge “thank you” to the students, parents and staff connected with Oakley College for their tremendous generosity!



**Thanks to our first time supporters in April:**

Adama James - Bassie James - Beresford Coker - Brooke Wood - DR Rawson - Margo Sami - Suzanne Hall

**Thank you to those who gave over \$500 in April:**

Eric Peters - Katherine Dutton - Kelly Barker - Lynn Coulibaly - Macquarie Bank Foundation - Robert & Katherine Roseth  
Mike James & Majken Ryherd - Oakley College, Gran Canaria (Canary Islands)

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