

DIRECTOR'S NOTE...

Deanna Wallace

AAO Executive Director

Rain, rain, rain. And not the kind that goes away -- at least not any time soon. The rainy season (which is tropical monsoon weather with thunder, lightening, high winds, and tremendous sheets of rain) is devastating to the children and families of Sierra Leone each year. This year is no exception and we're bracing ourselves for more to come.

We expect to encounter more children needing help -- especially because the rains bring disease, homelessness, and even death to their parents or caretakers. The bright spot for us right now is that our children at the Children's Center are all healthy at the moment -- and we're doing our best to keep it that way! Some of the older girls (*pictured below*) are especially happy to share their beautiful smiles with you. They, along with all the other AAO kids, are doing well thanks to your help! We're so grateful!



This past week, the AAO school completed its academic year. Our school is in session longer than traditional schools, because the kids don't have families or vacations to take elsewhere. When school lets out (and it's raining so much) we're also challenged to think of ways to keep the kids occupied indoors. So, right now we've come up with an "art contest" that the kids are working on. We'll eventually auction off some of their drawings at our Columbia Tower event (see info about this on page 2) -- and in the meantime the kids get to stay busy and share their tremendous creativity! Hopefully, I'll be able to share a copy of the winning drawing in a future newsletter!

As always, I really want to thank those of you who have remembered our pressing financial needs with your gifts and prayers. We know that without you and your support, our work would not be possible and the kids would have a very bleak future. Thank you for making such a tremendous difference in their lives!

SPONSORS NEEDED FOR COLUMBIA TOWER EVENT!

You are invited to participate in our Seattle Benefit on Saturday, October 3, 2009, from 5:00 to 8:00 pm, at The Columbia Tower Club. The Columbia Tower Club is located at the top of the tallest building in Seattle, Washington, and offers spectacular views of the city.

Special guest, Danny Glover, international film star and Goodwill Ambassador to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), will be attending the event, hosted by James Donaldson, former NBA All-Star and candidate for Seattle Mayor.

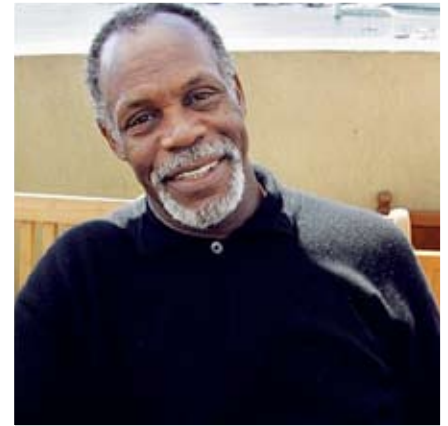
Event sponsors are invited to a private reception with James and Danny, at 5:00 pm, immediately followed by the main event, where over 200 friends will join the celebration to enjoy the culture and cuisine of Sierra Leone. Our friends include various celebrities from the arts & entertainment industries, professional athletes, visitors from Sierra Leone, and very special supporters from around the world. All As One's Seattle Benefit will include opportunities to interact with the people of Sierra Leone, receive tokens of their appreciation for your support, and share your concern for children who are innocent victims of this war-ravaged nation.

There are various opportunities for sponsorship of this event, with wonderful incentives at each level. We are also looking for people willing to make "challenge" gifts that will encourage attendees to give more. Anyone (attending or not), is welcome to challenge the room that night. Our host will let everyone know about your challenge gift, and will motivate others to match your gift, dollar for dollar.

For those who cannot sponsor the event, but would like to attend, you can RSVP your attendance and give a **Dh 925 suggested donation** at the event, in lieu of a ticket. RSVP is strictly necessary, as space is limited.

This special event offers some great benefits, and we'd love to share them with you! If you, your company, or any other potential contacts you may have, would be interested in sponsoring or attending this event, please contact **Robb Bowman**, by email, at robb@allasone.org, or by phone, at (360) 710-9425. Robb will be happy to answer any questions, send you an informational packet, and provide more details about the different levels of sponsorship and how to reserve your spot at the event.

We understand that because of current UAE government restrictions, we are limited in doing fundraising events in Dubai. So we wanted to let you know about this Seattle Benefit in the event that you have contacts in Washington state, who might be interested in participating - or in case you have plans to travel to Seattle, yourself. And you can still challenge the room with your gift even from Dubai - so please consider becoming involved!



Making Progress to Expand AAO Services!

As many of you know, we have purchased six acres of land in Grafton, Sierra Leone, just outside Freetown, where we plan to build new children's homes, a community school, and a vastly-needed medical clinic/hospital. We have a plan to build this new community helping center in phases. Phase One was the actual land purchase, survey and conveyance of the land. **We have really been blessed by the generosity of our supporters, and have now completed Phase One!**

In Sierra Leone, if vacant land is not secured, it can be encroached upon. We want to ensure that this doesn't happen to us! **Phase Two of our plan involves securing our land - which will cost Dh 407,000.** Phase Two funding will allow us to erect boundaries, machine clear the land, dig a well to bring water to the site, purchase and convert two shipping containers into a small office/guard house and secure storage facility, partially fence the land with concrete block and razor wire, purchase a generator, and create/display signboards announcing our future development plans.

Of this Dh 407,000 total, we have just received Dh 203,500 from Omicron Electronics! Thank you so much to all those at Omicron Electronics, and especially Andy Hedgecock and Dina Leonhartsberger, who made this gift possible!

To clarify for our faithful supporters, **these funds are restricted to our Grafton project** and cannot be used to operate the current Children's Center, school, or clinic. So, we still urgently need operational funds while trying to raise another **Dh 203,500** toward our Grafton project within the next three months.

If you or your company would like to make a lasting impact for the children and families of Sierra Leone, by giving toward Phase Two of our Grafton project, please contact us at info@aaodubai.org. Thank you so very much!

July Birthday Celebration!



All As One's country director in Sierra Leone, **Steven Amara**, celebrated his birthday on July 7, along with all of the other children who had July birthdays! It was a special evening, with birthday cake, music and dancing! As funds allow, we try to have a party each month to celebrate the kids' birthdays – and this one was extra special, because it was shared with "Uncle Steven!"

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

Thanks to our first time donors in July:

Claire Spencer
Mohamed Nabil Ali Rahmy
James Edward Bell
Jeannette Huizing

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

Dean & Retha McFarlane
Hazel Jackson
Jocelyn Clarke
John Moore
Karen King
Lynn Coulibaly
Omicron Electronics
Rodney & Marion Rodrigue

