

HORIZON SCHOOL DINNER/DANCE

The **Horizon School** held a recent fundraiser that brought in over **Dhs 80,000** toward the building of our new school in Sierra Leone! We so appreciate **Marion Sinclair**, the Head Mistress, for all of her extraordinary efforts and her leadership role in making this event so successful. A special thank you also goes to **Karen Land** and **Merryl Mowat**, for all of their time and energy spent organizing the Dinner Dance.

A host of "thank yous" also goes to the parents who donated prizes and involved their companies in sponsoring the event and to the students who creatively raised funds. Thank you, **Binu Chaudhary**, for your generous private donation – and also thanks to the magnanimous people who attended the Dinner Dance and helped to raise **Dhs 42,000** from the raffle and auction that night!

Lisa Warburton was another shining example of unselfish giving when she donated her raffle prize back to the auction and this act alone raised **Dhs 11,000!** Thank you, Lisa!

A huge thank you also to **Mick Todd** for being a fantastic emcee on the night of the event. His auctioneering skills and witticism were on great display! Special attention must also go to **Evelyn McGregor** who demonstrated her fabulous dancing skills.



Regent International School Donates Christmas Gifts to the Orphans in Sierra Leone

The **Regent International School**, an active participant in the "Children Caring About Children" program, has donated 200 shoeboxes filled with personal care items and gifts for the orphans in Sierra Leone. In a ceremony on 10th December 2006, the pupils dropped off their gifts at the Santa Sleigh which was sponsored by Mercato.

DHL, a longtime supporter and corporate alliance partner of All As One, air shipped the gifts to Sierra Leone in time for Christmas. The children at the Center enjoyed a holiday season with lots of gifts and good wishes from Dubai.



Santa Sleigh sponsored by Mercato.

DHL-DANZAS SHIPMENT ARRIVED OCTOBER 2006

DHL-DANZAS donated the shipment of a 40-foot container to Sierra Leone, that arrived in October 2006. This shipment helped to totally equip the baby room and toddler room with new cribs, mattresses, bedding, clothing, and so many other needed supplies. Thank you, DHL-DANZAS!

FOUR-DIRHAMS-A-DAY

Orphaned and abandoned children in Sierra Leone need your support! The All As One Children's Center, in Freetown, is an orphanage, medical clinic and school, caring for these vulnerable children.

Giving just **FOUR DIRHAMS A DAY** (120 Dirhams a month) **for a year**, will help sponsor a child and give him a chance at life. As a vital sponsor, you will receive a photo and information on a child whose life you are helping to save. You can choose to donate monthly, quarterly, bi-annually, or with a one-time annual donation.

Email sponsorship@aaodubai.org for information, or sign up today at www.aaodubai.org/donate.php.

Corporate Social Responsibility Programs

All As One, as a registered charity with Dubai Aid and Humanitarian City, would be delighted to work with companies interested in developing **Corporate Social Responsibility programs**. We have several options that can be tailored to your companies' needs: individual donations, corporate sponsorship, corporate gatherings, etc.

If you are interested in learning more about All As One and how you can help, contact: corporate@aaodubai.org

We need your help!

There is a water shortage in Freetown, and often we do not have enough water to do the laundry -- especially cloth baby nappies.

This means we have an urgent need for disposable nappies!

For in-kind donations, the drop-off point is Showbiz Pizza at Town Center Mall, on Jumeirah Beach Road.

CROCS FOR CHRISTMAS!



Crocs (www.crocs.com) has donated 150 pairs of shoes to the Children's Center, and they arrived in time for Christmas! All of our children and staff have been able to have new shoes for the holidays! We are absolutely thrilled, and appreciate this generous donation by the Crocs companies in Singapore, South Africa and Dubai, for making this donation possible!

Children Caring About Children

All As One wants to enlist excited and caring teachers, students, parents, and school administrators to participate in our **Children Caring About Children Project**. Through this program, students will have the opportunity to experience caring and concern for their peers across the globe. Their eyes will be opened to a world bigger than their own -- and the children in Sierra Leone will also richly benefit!

The children of **Horizon School** and **Regent International School** have already seen the wonderful benefits of their caring and compassion. If you or your school would be interested in knowing more about how you can join us in this exciting project, please email schools@aaodubai.org.

We'll look forward to hearing from you!



Matthew Morgan-Jones, All As One's Country Director in Dubai, with one of the children at the Center.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Deanna Wallace, AAO Executive Director

I had the privilege of spending a month in Sierra Leone with Matthew Morgan-Jones, All As One's Country Director for Dubai in October – November 2006. We were able to unpack and "fix-up" the Children's Center with all of the donated cribs, mattresses and other wonderful toys and gifts for the children. The new supplies have really helped to bring fresh inspiration and motivation to our staff and have given the children a brighter and better home. I cannot adequately express how much this means to me personally, and to my staff in Sierra Leone. It is such an incredible gift! I thought you might enjoy seeing a photo of Matthew and one of the children, while in Sierra Leone – and I wanted to sincerely express my appreciation and thanks to the generous and warm-hearted people of Dubai, who have so significantly made such a huge difference for the children in All As One's care. **Thank you from the bottom of my heart!**

UPCOMING EVENTS AND THINGS TO KNOW:

- We are having a **volunteer meeting** on 12 February @ 7 pm, at Showbiz Pizza, located at Town Center Mall on Jumeriah Beach Road. If you are interested in joining our team of volunteers, please let us know by emailing info@aaodubai.org. We're asking that each volunteer please bring one package of disposable nappies for donation (any size) to the meeting. Pizza and beverages will be served!
- **Coming Soon - All As One's annual African Ball!** This gala event will be held in May 2007. Details will follow in next month's newsletter!
- All As One will soon be launching the "**Checkout for Kids**" program with many of Dubai's hotels. When checking out of a hotel, customers will have the option of adding Dhs 10 to their hotel bill as a donation to All As One and the children of Sierra Leone. The combined effort could really help to build a positive future for so many children in Sierra Leone!
- We are organising a special screening of the **Blood Diamond** movie, which is set in Sierra Leone in 1999. The film debuts on February 1. Details of this special screening will be announced in our FEBRUARY newsletter.

Consider giving a gift to family and friends for their birthdays, anniversaries or weddings. Designate a financial gift in honor of a birthday, retirement, graduation, wedding, anniversary, adoption, new baby, or in memory of a loved one. By making such a gift to All As One, you will not only honor those you love, but give hope to an orphaned child in need.

All As One will send the person you designate a card, indicating that you have contributed on their behalf. You will know that your gift gave twice--to the one you remembered and to the life of a child.

For our supporters who deposit donations directly into our bank account at Lloyds TSB, please make sure you also follow-up with a fax (971.4.332,8810) or an email to our office (info@aaodubai.org) to let us know you've made the donation. If you are signing up for the Four-Dirhams-A-Day program, we will need your completed form in order to assign you to a child.

There is no tracking system at the bank to allow us to know who has made a donation, so **if you have made a donation and have not heard back from us, please let us know!**

Mariama was born with a cleft lip and palate in Sierra Leone. Her biological mother abandoned her and her biological father could not care for her basic needs. She was brought to the All As One Children's Center in October 2006. At the time she was very malnourished, anemic and failure to thrive. There are no medical options for surgery to correct Mariama's cleft lip and palate in Sierra Leone. **Fortunately, Dubai came through with an outpouring of support for Mariama's medical needs, and funds were raised so that Mariama could travel outside Sierra Leone for medical care.** A hospital in the US is donating the surgeries, and at the end of December 2006, Mariama was escorted to the United States. While she waits to get older and strong enough for her surgeries (as recommended by the doctors who are caring for her), Mariama is gaining weight and thriving. She has doubled her body weight in the last month and is developmentally on-target. **We're thrilled that Mariama is now doing so well and will continue to keep you posted on her progress. Thank you again for your generous support!**



Mariama, in her first snow (in the USA, January 2007), with her foster grandpa, Jim Wallace.

SPECIAL THANK YOU TO:

DHL, for the donated shipment of Christmas gifts and nappies to the Children's Center.

Mercato, for supporting All As One through the Santa Sleigh.

Regent School, for raising funds for All As One through their annual Christmas Fayre.

Jebel Ali Hotels International, for their generous support of All As One through the Bateaux Dubai cruises, and their donation of sponsorships as holiday gifts for their corporate partners.

PWC Shipping, for the shipment of a container of donated supplies to the Children's Center.

Cathy Forbes, from **Biz-Ability**, for all of her efforts in coordinating the Horizon School events, as well as the generous donation of her time to help All As One.

Horizon School, for hosting a dinner/dance to raise funds for All As One.

CROCS, for their generous gift of shoes for the children and staff in Sierra Leone.

ShowBiz Pizza for fundraising and sponsoring the "Giving Tree."

Courtyard Marriot for their terrific fundraising, donation and support.

Dubai Country Club and **Michelle Montgomery-Knappett** for the funds raised for AAO at the White Elephant Sale in November.

Millennium Hotels for donating staff uniforms

Dusit Hotels for donating bedding for the Children's Center.

ADVISORY BOARD AND VOLUNTEERS:

Matthew Morgan-Jones, Country Director

Kelly Barker

Kyla Harrison Gillett

Nicki Morgan

Geri Mitchell