

DIRECTOR'S NOTE...

Deanna Wallace, AAO Executive Director

Three-month-old baby **Joya** came into our care when she was just a few days old. Her mother died giving birth to her, and her father had no means of caring for her. She was very near death herself when she first arrived, and since coming to the Children's Center, Joya has continued to be sickly. She has been to the doctor and the hospital frequently, but, so far, we do not know what is causing her illness. The medical tests have been inconclusive. *Her medical bills, however, have become extremely large over time and these expenses are outside our normal budget.*

We're asking our supporters to consider donating specifically for Joya's medical care, so that we can continue to meet her needs. Right now we need \$3000 to pay for current expenses, and more may be needed in the near future. You can donate online at www.allasone.org/donate.php or write to info@allasone.org for other donation options. We so much appreciate your support!

On a brighter note, we are really pleased to report that the DHL container shipment arrived in Sierra Leone this month! The children in our care now have new bunkbeds and mattresses that we've been needing in their rooms for years! It is really wonderful to have this infusion of necessary supplies, and we want to thank DHL for their generous support. It truly makes a world of difference to the kids!

As we begin the holiday season, I want you to know how much you are appreciated, too, and I ask that you'll continue to give generously to AAO. We are struggling financially at the moment, and truly need your ongoing donations in order to meet the needs of the children in our care. Thank you so very much!



Thank you so very much!

UPDATE ON THE CHILDREN

We wanted to let you know that Grace Ashley and baby Aron are both doing very well right now!

Grace came to us with severe burns, but her burns are now healed and her hair is growing back, too. She still visits the doctor often for check-ups, but she is developing well and is just beginning to learn to walk.

Aron, who came to us with an enlarged head, has been to Nigeria for treatment and is due for another check-up there soon. His head circumference has not increased, and his body is now catching up to his head size. He is also beginning to crawl and is **very happy baby**.



We wanted you to see these recent photos of both the children, and know **how very grateful we are for your support in helping us to keep these kids alive and healthy**. Both of these children were found abandoned, and would not have lived much longer without our intervention. We would not have been able to help the kids if you were not supporting us! **Thank you for your life-saving compassion!**

Holiday Gift Ideas...

ALL AS ONE SHOP - featuring our beautiful, new AAO Calendar and lots more!



www.cafepress.com/shopAAO

babies for change - owned by an AAO friend, with ALL profits going to All As One!



www.babiesforchange.com

Who paid for your diamond? - apparel, signs & more, to raise awareness about Sierra Leone



www.cafepress.com/helpsierraleone

AAO HERO ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Geri Mitchell, Dubai volunteer extraordinaire, has always thought of herself as a charitable person. She used to donate to various charities, giving away personal belongings when a natural catastrophe struck somewhere in the world. But, on reflection, Geri often wondered how much of her contribution actually got to the people who really needed it.

Geri first heard about All As One through a friend, Nicky Morgan, who was a volunteer for AAO in Dubai. What impressed Geri was that Nicky felt amazingly close to the Children's Center, and knew the children by name. Geri's family soon began to support All As One, and were assigned a child from the Center. Now Geri's children call him *"our brother who doesn't live with us."*

Geri says that what really inspired her to become involved with AAO was, *"stories like baby Aron, who came to the Centre with a critical illness and is now almost fully recovered, or little Steven who was literally dropped over the wall and found crying in the Centre's garden. These little guys really struck a cord with me when I realised that I could actually be personally involved in improving their lives."*

Since Geri joined AAO in October 2006, she has seen the positive changes that have taken place at the Center and, more importantly, in the children's lives. She shares their stories with her own children and says, *"Although their lives are worlds apart, my kids have learnt that there are less fortunate children in the world, and what we can do to make a difference."*

Thank you, Geri, for truly helping to make a difference for the children in Sierra Leone!



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

A special thanks to our first time donors in September:

Amy & Annette Whyte - Andrew Broderick - Annette Poyser - Dr. Jessica Semoes - Gretel and Conrad Busuttill - Jaky Sack - Jill Jaiswal - Leslie Farnworth - Rebecca Riley - Richard Allen - Sadia Al Haque - Steve & Jenny Joyner - Tahir Shah - Toni McLaren - Zelis Sariak

We would also like to thank the following supporters for donations over \$500 in September:

Anonymous Donor (for land purchase) - Judith Hughes - Marie R. Simone Tirant - Yvonne Katter

And a special thanks to...

