

DIRECTOR'S NOTE...

Deanna Wallace

AAO Executive Director



Our 2009 "cover girl", baby **Blessing** (nickname Ble-Ble) is in the news again! She is now standing! We're thrilled to share her progress with you, and let you know she's doing so well. She is no longer malnourished, and is growing into a beautiful toddler. As you can see from the photos, she's very playful and engaging. Thank you so much for helping us save her precious life!



It has been an extremely busy month for AAO, with a special field trip for our children to visit chimpanzees (*see inside for more info and photos*) and confirmation from **Danny Glover** for our Seattle Benefit, on October 24! Mr. Glover, through an invitation from his long-time friend and AAO Board member, Dr. **Ramona Tascoe**, has graciously agreed to donate his time in support of AAO. We are feeling very blessed and extremely grateful. We hope that all of you who can make it to Seattle, will attend. More information about this event is inside this newsletter too. Keep reading!

I am especially touched this month by the wonderful progress that the children are making. **Hayley** can now read and write well, and is gaining confidence. **Aron** and **David** are walking! Little **Steven** is excelling in school, and **Salamatu** has progressed from a boisterous toddler to a sweet young lady. That's just to name a few! It is amazing and humbling to be part of their growth and changes!

Thank you for making a better future possible for Blessing, Aron, David and all of the others! We absolutely rely on you in order to keep going! *Please continue your support today by giving at:*

www.allasone.org/donate.php

You are truly the children's lifeline!

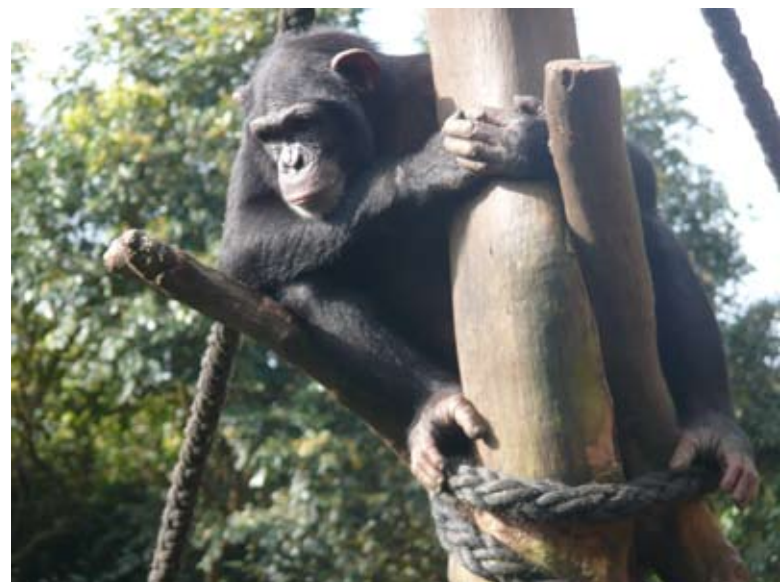


AAO Kids' Fieldtrip with IMATT

The **International Military Advisory and Training Team (IMATT)** in Sierra Leone, planned a special treat for twenty of our children, taking them to the Tacugama Chimpanzee Sanctuary, just outside Freetown. On October 2, nine IMATT vehicles came to the Children's Center to transport the kids – and, as you can imagine, this caused quite a stir in our neighborhood! As the caravan of vehicles reached the Center, some of our staff were already outside to greet them.

The trek up the hill to Tacugama is so steep, it can only be reached by foot. The soldiers had to help some of our kids up the hill, where they learned more about the chimpanzees and had a chance to view them up close!

We are very grateful to IMATT for providing this wonderful opportunity for learning and exploration. The children are still talking about it!





Roland needs your help!

Six-week-old Roland just came into our care, needing extra medical attention and help. Along with being malnourished, he has a disease that requires a doctor's intervention and follow up care. This is going to be a strain on our budget, but at least care is available in Sierra Leone. We are asking our supporters who can, to give especially for Roland. Please make your gift online at:

www.allasone.org/donate.php

or email info@allasone.org, for more ways to give.

Art Therapy to Benefit the Children in November!

HOW (Helping Others Worldwide) and their Kidz Heart Art program, are partnering with All As One to provide the children at the Center with art therapy classes, in November 2009.

The team consists of HOW's executive director, **Christian Pearce**, artists **Nadine Heimann** and **Kayana Sessoms**, and Photographer, **Clayton Long**. The team will spend two weeks with the children, and will also be donating supplies to All As One, as well as other Sierra Leone organizations, while there.

They plan to document their time at the Center with video footage, and we're looking forward to having some of it to share with you in future.

Keep in mind...

The holidays will soon be upon us, and it's a great opportunity to add All As One to your Holiday party this year. Please consider sponsorships or contributions to AAO in addition to, or in lieu of, other gifts. We would also love to help you with planning an AAO party, and can provide you with materials and ideas.

There are lots of ways to make this a truly special holiday time for the children in Sierra Leone, too! Contact Robb Bowman at robb@allasone.org, for more information.

All As One UK!

It is with great delight that we announce that **All As One UK** is officially up and running! We have been accepted by **Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC)** as a bona fide charity, exempt from certain taxes, and able to claim **Giftaid** on donations.

Ettaline Hill is the new AAO UK Director, and our office is based in Oxford, where she resides. Ettaline first became involved with All As One while living in Dubai. In 2006-2008, Ettaline helped Matthew Morgan-Jones and his team with fundraising, especially as the liaison with schools. In March 2009, Ettaline was our special guest at the Children's Center in Sierra Leone, for two weeks. She brought Comic Relief Day to the kids!

If you are an AAO supporter with a UK address, we're hoping you will now donate through the AAO UK office. Your gift will still reach the children in Sierra Leone, but by giving within the UK, your donation will go even further. With a Giftaid declaration (downloadable from our website), AAO can claim 28p for every £1 donated by a UK standard rate tax payer. That's an extra 28%, and all it takes is a one-time signed form from you!

We are also working to raise **£5,000** quickly, so that we can get our registration number from the **UK Charity Commission**. Once we have reached this goal, we can apply for UK grants and also benefit from UK corporate giving. **So far we have £1000 – 20% of what we need.** Please help us raise the whole £5,000, by making a donation to our UK office as soon as you can. **To donate using a credit card or to download a Banker's Order form, go to:**

www.allasone.org/UKdonations.php

From this page, you can also download a **Giftaid Donation form**. Thank you so much for your support! For more information, please contact Ettaline Hill, at ukdirector@allasone.org.



Rafaello & Co. Jewelers supporting All As One!

On September 24, 2009, deluxe jewelers, **Rafaello & Co.**, announced their official partnership with All As One. In honor of their newest luxury jewelry collection, **The Blackout**, Rafaello's will be **donating 10% of their net proceeds from the sales of this line to AAO**, in an effort to raise global awareness and increase funds for poverty-stricken children in Sierra Leone. A gala launch of the new collection will be held in New York City, during the second week of November.



The collection includes an array of high quality black diamonds, all accessed from the world's most exclusive mines, taking inspiration from the millions who lost their lives in Africa during the Sierra Leone Civil War. *"At any age, any status, any race, it's always important to give back to humanity,"* says Rafaello & Co. founder, Rafael Aranbayev. *"We hope leading by example motivates others to recognize the needs of Sierra Leone."*

Rafaello's has remained adamantly committed to the non-usage of conflict diamonds, and hopes the new partnership will not only benefit young lives of the less fortunate, but encourage notable names in entertainment to take action as well.