

## **DIRECTOR'S NOTE...**

**Deanna Wallace, AAO Executive Director**

As you can see from this photo, Grace Ashley continues to do well. We are so pleased with her progress, considering that it was just three months ago when she was found abandoned and in critical condition from burns on her body. It's so terrific to see how well she is doing in such a short time! **Thank you so much for your gifts of support that make it possible for us to be there when children, like Grace, need help and intervention.**

I'm happy to report that the children are also excited this month because they have begun practicing their own Krio version of John Lennon's song, "Imagine." **A US-based film crew will be coming to Freetown in August to film the children singing the song and learning how to make music on 20 new XO laptops being donated for the children's use.** Please see the following press release for the exciting details about the "Hear Me" film project and All As One's involvement in it. Hopefully you'll soon be able to catch a glimpse of our children in the upcoming documentary!

Happily, the children are doing well at this time and got to have another beach party this month, courtesy of Rita Bihari and Marlene Daniels, who were visiting the Children's Center in July!



**I want to thank you again for all your prayers, help, and continued support. You make all the difference to the children in our care!**

## HearMe: Providing Means for Orphans to Create Music, Film and Websites

This summer, *Shot in the Dark Films* is teaming up with *One Laptop Per Child*, *MagNet*, and the *Elevate Film Festival*, to bring relief to some of our world's most desperate citizens, its orphans. Our world now has 143 million orphans, a number predicted to double over the next 50 years. These children have no way of providing for themselves. They are going hungry and living without clothes, much less educational materials and familial support. Their futures are bleak and hope for change is a scarce commodity in their lives. **HearMe** is a program constructed to provide these children with the means to create music and film, and to have access to a website dedicated to their creations.

Educating children in today's environment takes computers, communication skills and most importantly, community support. **HearMe** has combined all of these elements *to deliver XO laptops, Yamaha drum kits, keyboards, one Mac computer, and a film crew to orphanages in Iraq, Cambodia, Zimbabwe, Sierra Leone, Puerto Rico, and Watts*. Each film crew will create a video of the children learning how to work with the equipment provided. At the same time, the children will be creating their own unique rendition of "Imagine" by John Lennon in their native languages. This video will be used to promote the **HearMe** program so that children all over the world will be able to experience the joy of making music and art.

*One Laptop Per Child*, founded by Nicholas Negroponte, provides under-privileged children in developing countries the opportunity to learn via a computer designed to operate not only in their potentially remote environments, but also with their creative ability in mind. The children can learn language and math skills, as well as animation, music, and graphic art. *Each orphanage involved in this video production will receive 20 XO computers provided by One Laptop Per Child for long-term use and development of their skills.*

*MagNet*, the creation of Dan Mapes and Gabriel Rene, is a new software program that enables the purchasing of any piece of music or video from any webpage on which it is displayed and gives an affiliate commission for the sale to the owner of the webpage. This wonderful innovation allows artists to sell their own music, and enables anyone on the Internet to become a distributor of their favorite art. *MagNet* is currently in pre-launch testing with Seal and other artists and will officially launch in July. The **HearMe website**, made exclusively for the orphans involved in this program, *will feature the MagNet technology making it possible for them to sell the music they create.*

*Finally, the "HearMe" video will be featured this year as an opening to the Elevate Film Festival.* The purpose of the festival, founded by Mikki Willis, is to "elevate" the state of our planet. Each year 20 directors are chosen and given a theme and 7 days to make a film. This year's theme is "All Tribes Unite!" The festival sold out Hollywood's Kodak Theater last year and will take place in the Nokia Theater this year in front of 7,000 attendees. ([www.elevateexperience.com](http://www.elevateexperience.com))

*Other organizations contributing include War Kids Relief in Iraq, All As One Orphanage in Sierra Leone, Aviva's Place orphanage in Cambodia, and Peace4Kids foster care facility in Watts, California.*

*With founder of One Laptop Per Child, Nicholas Negroponte providing 20 XO computers per orphanage, West Coast Post donating all editing services, MagNet providing a stellar website for these kids to sell their music, and the Elevate Film festival launching our video on October 4th at their 3rd annual festival, HearMe is making an impact on the suffering of our world's orphans.*

### Update on Current Progress with the All As One Orphanage and the HearMe Project:

The children living at the All As One orphanage in Freetown, Sierra Leone are anxiously awaiting their music studio (with laptops) set to ship on Wednesday, July 28th. HearMe's executive producer, Shae D'Iyn, and producers Eric Liebman and Kevin Jackson, will arrive in Sierra Leone on August 21st to shoot the West African segment of "HearMe". The children are already practicing their Krio version of "Imagine" and are very excited about the filming project!

## PETER MAYHORN'S CLASSROOM GIFT

**Peter Mayhorn**, adopted from Sierra Leone in 2002, has recently been able to help teach his classmates about his country of birth. Peter attends **St. Sebastian**, a small private school in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. His teacher, Mrs. Nishi, and his mom, Pascale, worked together to present information and photos about Sierra Leone. Everyone was very supportive, and the discussions eventually culminated with *the third-grade students deciding to forgo their end-of-year pizza party so that they could donate the money to All As One instead!*



**We are very touched and grateful for this special support and want to especially thank Peter, his mom Pascale, Mrs. Nishi, and all the third-grade students and parents for their support!**



### **ALL AS ONE HERO -- SANDRA DIAMOND**

**Sandra Diamond**, PR professional, volunteered her expertise, hard work, and enthusiasm to All As One during the recent visit to Dubai of the First Lady of Sierra Leone. Sandra worked very hard to ensure that All As One and the First Lady had excellent media coverage in Dubai, garnering support among journalists as well. Sandra worked tirelessly, day and night, even on the weekends! We so appreciate her efforts – and also want to thank her husband and children, who sacrificed their precious time with Mom during the busy days of the First Lady's visit. **Thank you, Sandra, for all your spectacular work for All As One and the children of Sierra Leone!**

## The Children Need Your Help!

We still need more sponsors for our **DOLLAR-A-DAY** program. For only **\$30 a month**, you can help to keep our orphanage running. As a sponsor, you'll receive a photo and information about one of the children you will be helping. You will also receive updates throughout the year on how your assigned child is doing, along with updated photos. To sign up today, please go to [www.allasone.org/dollar.php](http://www.allasone.org/dollar.php) or write to [info@allasone.org](mailto:info@allasone.org) for more information. Thank you so much!



## Thank you to our regular montly donors! You are the backbone of our work!

### A special thanks to our first time donors in June:

Ali Shabazi - Martin Janse van Rensburg - Jacqui Cross - Matthias Gelber - Andrea Maurer - Michael & Terri Karsten - Faith Gove  
Christopher Hyman - Saburo & Patricia Nishi - Cathy Grigsby - Safa Altajir - Nina Habib Mohamed Hajallie - Neil M. Stevens  
Nancy Yu - Sandra Byford - Deborah Lynn Morrison - Craig Nichols

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

Kings' Dubai School - Robert & Katherine Roseth - John & Betsy Lee - Dubai American Academy - Kerrie Alder - Anne C. Browne  
Rod & Pascale Mayhorn - Yvonne Katter - Suzanne Abraham - Shereen Abraham

### Corporate donors:

