

### DIRECTOR'S NOTE...

Deanna Wallace, AAO Executive Director

You may remember the twins we've featured in our newsletter the past two months. **Well, look at how well they're doing now** (*right and below*). **They are beautiful!** What a change we've seen in these precious twins in just a short amount of time!



In other news, **thanks to your generous support of the All As One Children's Center, we have been able to receive and care for two new arrivals** in the past month. A girl, approximately three year old, was found abandoned in Freetown, and brought to the Children's Center by the local police. Another baby girl, age 16 months, was brought to the orphanage after her mother recently died. There are no government-funded orphanages in Sierra Leone and without organizations like All As One, these children literally have nowhere else to go. **Your support keeps our doors open.**



Quite a few people have been asking about our progress in finding a new home for our Children's Center in Sierra Leone. **I am happy to tell you that we've received donations of \$3070 specifically for the land purchase, and have a pledge of \$1500 more. This is a great start toward our goal of raising \$75,000.**

As we continue to raise the funds needed to buy land, we are also looking at temporary rental options. Unfortunately, at this time, we are in a state of "waiting" because of the presidential election uncertainty in Sierra Leone. **As I write this, we are waiting for a "run off" election to take place in September, since the first election process failed to produce a winner who gathered at least 55% of the vote.**

To be frank, Sierra Leone is a lonely place right now as many people are sticking close to home and not traveling much. Most government officials and many others have left the country. **We're finding that it is difficult to look for a place to rent or buy under the current circumstances.** No one in Sierra Leone is in that "mood" and it wouldn't be appropriate. So, we're waiting, along with everyone else, to see what happens.

In the meantime, we are continuing to care for the children to the best of our ability. **The summer months are generally lean, in terms of donations, and our general funds are almost depleted.** If you are able to send a donation to help during this time, it would be greatly appreciated.

**As always, we are so thankful for your support and prayers!**

# CHILDREN CARING ABOUT CHILDREN

**This summer, we have been blessed with an amazing new group of volunteers** -- a Washington-based, community youth group, led by mentors **Nichole Durler** and **Julianne Norris**, and made up of **girls, ages 12-17**.

The girls have dedicated the past few weeks to raising funds for the children of AAO and awareness about the devastation suffered by the population of Sierra Leone. They have hosted bake sales and garage sales. They have set up informational displays outside of area stores, handed out fliers, taken donations, and shared our DVD with several people. **To date, they have raised \$206!**

*The girls' quotes do a much better job than we can at explaining the motivation behind their actions:*

**"I am 12 years old...** I was told about the children in Africa that suffered through the civil war and are now going to be evicted by December. [Nichole & Julianne] asked me if I wanted to help and I said 'of course.' I have passion for people who need my help. I am in a group home and only get to see my mom once a month, and **I am going through hard times. I am just a little girl who is willing to help in any way I can, and I can make a difference in the world. Most of you who are adults can also make a difference.** Make it a great day or not...the choice is yours."

-- *Shyanne*

"I am going to tell you what I have been doing to help the kids who are getting evicted from their home in Sierra Leone. First, **I have been doing bake sales in front of stores to help the kids of Sierra Leone.** At the bake sales, I am trying to get donations from people who want to help the cause. **Second, I have been doing a garage sale** with the Sierra Leone kids' pictures on a cardboard poster with the bake sale goodies. At the garage sale we are also **accepting donations** from people who want to help."

-- *Ashley*

"I would like to help this children's center and these kids because when I saw the video and heard the stories it made me realize **how great my life was compared to theirs, and it made me want to help make their lives as good as mine.**"

-- *Jenelle*

"I want to help the kids in All As One because anything that can make a difference in the world is good. **Hearing about all that goes on in that country, the troubles that they deal with, makes me feel sympathetic.** Hearing that the Children's Center in Sierra Leone is going to be evicted in December, and **finding out that all of the kids in the Center will have nowhere to go, is what encouraged me to go out there and try to make people understand how important it is.**"

-- *Kristie*

**"I am 17 years old** and I am helping out with the All As One organization that is helping African children... I am doing this because I want to help children and families that have been devastated and hurt by the war. I watched **Blood Diamond** and the **All As One DVD** and saw how much the people were affected and how devastated they all were. **I want to help the children...by raising money to get land and a new building so that they won't be devastated again by another tragedy. I want to do this to let them know that they do have people out there who care about what is going on in Sierra Leone. 'I am only one, but I am still one. I cannot do everything but I can still do something and because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do something I can do.'** (Helen Keller)"

-- *Tabitha*

**We are incredibly moved by the efforts and generosity of this group of young women, who have given up a large part of their summer break to help children they've never met. Their compassion for those in need across the globe is a reminder of the connectedness between all of us.**

**Thank you, girls, for being such remarkable examples. You are the future, and that is extremely encouraging!**



## RUNNING FOR THE KIDS OF AAO!

In our last newsletter, we called AAO supporter, **Geoffrey Warwick**, "brave and energetic." We can now add "overwhelmingly successful" to that list!

On August 12, Geoffrey ran in the **Sydney City2Surf Charity Run 2007**, in an effort to raise funds for the kids of the AAO Children's Center. **Geoffrey set an original goal for \$3000 in pledges, but, as of this printing, he has raised \$4156!**

You can view Geoffrey's fundraising page (complete with supporters' comments) at:

[www.firstgiving.com/wefferson](http://www.firstgiving.com/wefferson)

**Everyone with AAO would like to thank Geoffrey and all who pledged, for their generous giving! This outpouring of support means so much to us!**

### SPECIAL THANK YOU TO:

**Colin Saldanha** and **Lisa Massie** for their gifts to our building fund.

**All of our monthly sponsors** for their continued commitment and donations.



**Just a FEW of the children you are helping with your support!**