

## DIRECTOR'S NOTE...

**Deanna Wallace**

**AAO Executive Director**

I'm really happy to introduce you to 4-year-old **Francis**, who has been living at the All As One Children's Center since the age of 6 months. Francis is a very sweet and gentle guy, with a beautiful smile. Francis' mom was sent to prison for abusing Francis' older sibling, and the judge ordered both of the children into All As One's care. At the time, we thought their stay would be only for a few weeks, but it has turned into several years.

**Since the government of Sierra Leone does not have any government-funded child welfare programs, Francis and his brother had nowhere to go without All As One's intervention.** Now Francis doesn't know any other family but the one he has at the Children's Center. On one level, it is sad because he does not have parents caring for him, but on another level, it is wonderful, because he is still alive, has loving care from his "aunties" and is getting the beginnings of an education at the AAO school.

Francis doesn't know it, but despite the hardships in his life, it could be much worse. **Right now, the United Nations estimates one in four children die in Sierra Leone before the age of 5, approximately 18,000 children are living on the streets, and another 300,000 children are not in school.** Although there is still much to be done, All As One is helping to make a significant difference in the lives of the destitute children in Sierra Leone!

With your help and support, we want to continue to keep our doors open to provide a home for Francis and other children like him. But, we truly need your help! Please donate today at [www.allasone.org/donate.php](http://www.allasone.org/donate.php).

**We are so grateful for your gifts of love to the kids in our care!**



# The Latest News . . .



Notable celebrity jewelers, **Rafaello & Co.** ([www.rafaelloandcompany.com](http://www.rafaelloandcompany.com)), is now launching a new line of jewelry, **The Blackout Collection**, showcasing an array of high-quality black diamonds. The Blackout Collection takes inspiration from the millions who have lost their lives in Africa during the Sierra Leone Civil War. **Rafaello & Co.'s commitment to the non-usage of conflict diamonds has inspired the company to donate, on behalf of the purchaser, ten percent of the proceeds to All As One! We are very grateful and excited about this support!**



**All As One UK is now official!** We have now been accepted by HMRC (Inland Revenue) as a charity under UK regulations. We are thrilled and excited about expanding our work in Great Britain! Thank you so much to **Ettaline Hill**, our wonderful UK Director, for all her hard work on behalf of the children in Sierra Leone!



**Our Columbia Tower event for October 3 with Danny Glover and James Donaldson is being postponed** due to a conflict with Mr. Glover's schedule. We will keep you posted as to our future plans for this exciting event!

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



**Thanks to our first time donors in August:**

Gary Kitcher  
Jo Ann Rochon  
Nicholas  
Sheryl Valentiner



**And thank you to those who donated over \$500 in August:**

William Daly & Selina Smyth  
Christopher Alan Peet

