

Jeannette plans to visit All As One's children's centres in Sierra Leone next year



"I LOVE WORKING FOR SMALL CHARITIES - IT'S IMPORTANT TO ME TO SEE WHERE THE MONEY GOES"

Jeannette Klaua, 34, German
Former healthcare project assistant

"Changing careers is something I have done before, so when I was made redundant back in April, I wasn't too terrified. It didn't occur to me to leave Dubai - I have been here for 10 years and consider it my home now. But I did want to find something worthwhile to fill my days. I had already been volunteering for charity in my spare time, so ramping up my involvement with my favourite, All As One, seemed an obvious choice.

I came across All As One a couple of years ago in a magazine article about Matthew Morgan-Jones, the Dubai director, and I immediately

wanted to get involved. It's our mission to help sick and orphaned children in Sierra Leone, so the money we raise all goes into funding our school, orphanage and medical centre there. It's important to me that I work for a small charity as you know exactly where and how every dirham is spent. None of the staff here gets paid - we are just four volunteers working from home on our own mobile phones and laptops, so no money is lost in pointless administrative costs.

Now I have more time, I am looking after sponsorship for the charity - we have several large events a year and I work on everything from securing prizes to selling tickets. It can be just a few hours a week or up

to 40. It's great that I now have the time to be flexible about it.

Next year, I plan to visit Sierra Leone - it's one of the poorest countries in the world, so I am sure I'll be shocked by what I see but it will be useful to get an insight into what we are all working for and also what more is needed out there.

I've never been keen on giving money to charities I know nothing about, so being able to devote my time and skills instead is great for me. In fact, it's actually changed my direction completely. I love my work with AAO so much that I plan a career move into the charity sector. I know it can be hard to find work, but I have just found it all so rewarding."

"Visit aaodubai.org for information ■

Flash!

Want to give up your time for a good cause but don't know where to start? Visit www.volunteerindubai.com for information on how to get involved with the city's charities, including full event listings and contact details