

# LOVE

WITHOUT BOUNDARIES

Hello September.....a brand new month with a whole new chapter to write! Before I flip my old-school paper calendar to the ninth page of the year, I want to take a moment to tell you about some of the wonderful things your support enabled last month. It's always so hard to only pick a few stories, but here are some of my favorite moments.



Ashlynn



Shelby



Kayla



Justice

## Cardiac Program

August marked the 18th anniversary of LWB, and since it all started with a baby's heart surgery, I think it's only fitting to start this newsletter with wonderful news from our cardiac program. Last month alone, we helped 12 beautiful children receive essential heart surgery, including the four precious babies above. Ashlynn and Kayla were healed through our Unity Initiative in China, and I'm happy to report that both little girls are now doing well post-op. Justice and Shelby both needed urgent heart surgeries shortly after entering the world, and I'm grateful they could be helped through our India cardiac program. I know we can all agree that saving the life of a child is truly an incredible thing, so my deepest thanks to you for always rallying around the kids who otherwise wouldn't receive medical care.



### **Bring Water - Bring Hope**

Isn't this such a great photo? Any time I need a smile I am definitely going to pull it back up and look at little Moses in blue. This sweet sibling group of 7 is one of over 120 families who are receiving a home water collection system in Uganda, thanks to the outpouring of support given during our recent water campaign. When this community heard how many children were having to walk long distances to gather water from unsafe ponds and streams, you stepped up in a major way to make a difference. Our on-the-ground team has been working nonstop to get the systems installed as quickly as possible....and you can see from this picture how excited the kids were when they learned water will now be right outside their front door!



## Foster Care News

While it always hurts our hearts that any child has to enter our foster care program, as that means they have sadly faced abandonment, trafficking, or abuse...we remind ourselves to be grateful that LWB is able to quickly offer safe and loving refuge to children who are in need of full-time protection. In August, we welcomed six new children to LWB foster care, including 10-year-old Maggie from Cambodia. Authorities alerted us that she had been living by herself on the streets outside a gambling casino, a very dangerous location for such a small little girl. Our team was able to quickly place her with a caring foster family, and she is settling in well. To use one of my favorite sayings from a staff member in China, we can "put our hearts down" and give thanks that Maggie will now receive all the care and attention she needs to thrive.



## Emergency Food Relief

In August, emergency food relief was distributed to over 500 impoverished families in 4 countries, as well as 2 orphanages, thanks to your support. That comes to over 2000 children helped last month alone. One of the groups who received hunger supplies was in Uganda, after a wonderful LWB volunteer read an article about how many children were not taking their HIV antiviral medication since they had no food to take with it. We contacted a local health department who identified 100 children who were going without their HIV meds due to extreme hunger, and the LWB team started immediate deliveries to those who were going without. This is what I love about our teams around the world. They mobilize so quickly when they hear of the most urgent needs in their communities because they believe so strongly in our motto that "Every Child Counts."



## **Saving the Tiniest of Lives**

Sometimes we hear of crucial needs around the world that really touch our hearts, and of course after helping so many abandoned preemies in China, we have a real passion for making sure those born too soon are given every chance at life. When we learned about a special charity hospital in Kurdish Iraq, which sees over 1000 children a day from Iraq, Turkey, and Syria, despite having very limited equipment available, we knew we wanted to help make a difference. In August, LWB provided 5 complete NICU incubator systems, including oxygen and cardiac monitors, to the hospital. Even as the staff was setting up the incubators, tiny preemies were being moved into them for urgent care. We love that this special gift of equipment will give extremely vulnerable babies the best chance possible to survive. Just look at those tiny toes in the photo above.



## Cleft Initiative

And finally, I want to introduce you to one-year-old Ulysses. This adorable little guy is from Gansu, China and was born with a large cleft palate. His parents are part of the Hui minority group in the far west and were unable to afford the surgery their little boy needed. I'm happy to report that Ulysses came through his surgery with flying colors, bringing so much joy to his young mother. One more precious child whose life was touched by your kindness.

I'll be back next month with more great things that are already in the works for September. Healing, feeding, educating, loving.....that's the very heart of what we do. It's only possible thanks to the amazing LWB community. I am just so grateful.

In hope,

Amy Eldridge  
Chief Executive Officer

**"Every Child Counts"**

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