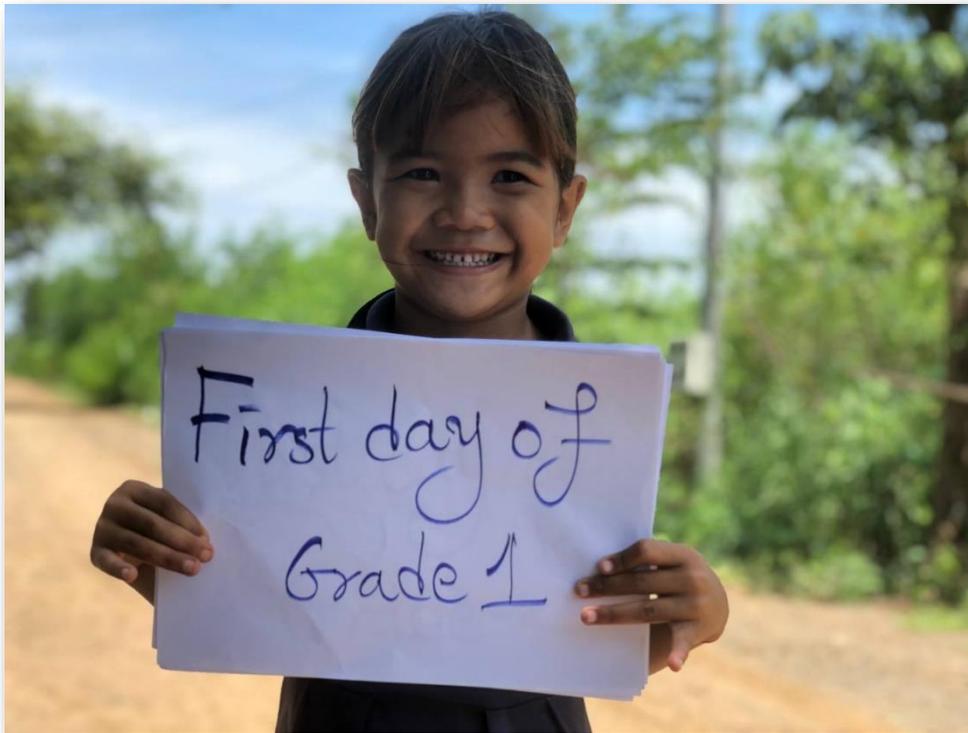


Hi everyone,

Happy first day of November! I'm sitting at my desk wondering how in the world I will whittle down all the great things you made possible for kids last month. Here's my best shot of picking just five, with absolutely no disrespect to all of the other great projects which happened in October. I didn't list any from Cambodia last month, and yep....I heard from our Cambodia team! As a mother of seven, you would think I would do a better job of making sure everyone is equal.



Schools Officially Reopened in Cambodia

You probably heard our enthusiastic cheers when the Department of Education gave us permission last month to officially reopen all of our schools in Cambodia, after agreeing that LWB's COVID safety protocols are stellar. Our dedicated teachers had been teaching remotely for months and had been meeting with small groups of children in the villages and landfill to make sure no child would fall behind. Now we can be full steam ahead once more in bringing not only the gift of learning but those critical hot lunches as well. I'm just so grateful to all of our education donors who didn't give up on these amazing kids during the pandemic closures. The children of Sokhem, Rangsei, Leap, and Vithu villages are thrilled to be back in person.

Life-Saving Cardiac Program

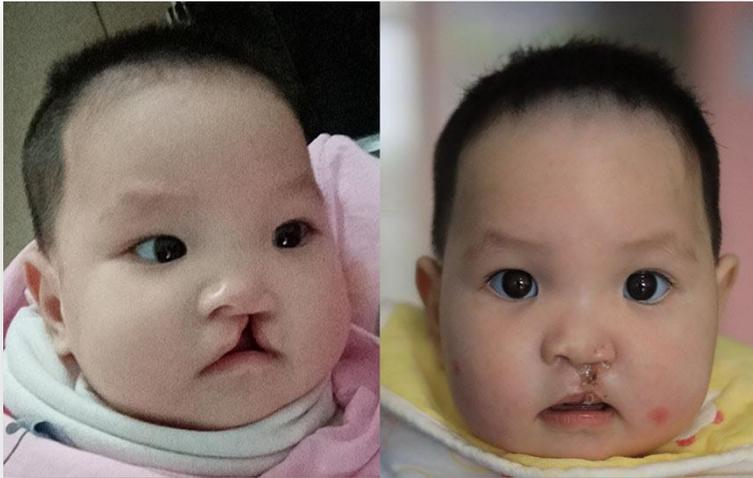
Today as I tallied up the number of heart surgeries that took place in October, I could only sit back with a whole lot of awe. Back in 2003, when we were trying to save the life of our very first heart patient...it seemed like an almost impossible dream. And now just last month alone, you made it possible for FOURTEEN beautiful children to have the heart surgeries they needed to survive. Kids like precious Leah, who had her essential operation in India, now have a whole new future in front of them.



Essential Supplies in Uganda

Our team in Uganda was incredibly busy during October, making sure some of the most basic human dignity needs were met for hundreds of impoverished children. In addition to emergency food supplies being given in both rural villages and inner city slums, we also continued our work installing family water tanks, so the children won't have to make the long trek to gather water each day. In Nakifuma Village, we also provided 400 blankets to make sure the kids here stay warm. The kids were so excited by this gift that they couldn't stop smiling and thanking our team. Am I dating myself if I ask if you remember the old Peanuts comic book that said, "Happiness is a warm blanket?" It was the first thing that came to my mind when I saw the children dancing with joy. The simple things in life are often the most comforting.

Life-Changing Cleft Surgeries



We were honored to help several orphaned children in China receive cleft surgery in October. One of the babies who arrived to see our team was 5-month-old Fiona from the Xinyang orphanage in Henan province. She quickly became a favorite of the nurses at Anhui Children's Hospital because of her sweet and gentle personality. We are all hopeful that after her cleft lip incision heals she will have the absolute best chance possible of finding a permanent home through adoption.



Female Empowerment in Guatemala

On my trip to Guatemala in September, I got to meet the most remarkable teen girls living in a small town struggling with enormous poverty. These young ladies face immense pressure to drop out of school and begin working, often by age 13 or 14. You might not know that Guatemala is the most unequal country for females in Latin America, ranking 112th out of 135 countries around the world in gender equality. It also has the highest teen pregnancy rate in Latin America, with sexual assault sadly a common reality. Last month LWB helped 40 of these incredible teen girls with personal hygiene packages so that they can live with increased self-worth and confidence. Our hope is to at least double the number of girls in this project in 2022, providing workshops on human rights, self defense, and the importance of remaining in school. Stay tuned for more news on this very important program.

And yes...I have made sure that I chose at least one project from every country where we work so I can stay on everyone's holiday card list this upcoming season. 😊

Last month I told you that I need to come up with new and creative ways to express my thanks, as you impact so many kids that I wish I could show my gratitude even more fully. So for everything you made possible in October, I want you to imagine all of us at LWB doing a sampeah for you. This is a traditional Khmer sign of respect, with our palms pressed together in front of our chest. Rather than sharing a photo of me doing a sampeah, I think you will more likely appreciate seeing adorable Sienna, from our Cambodia foster care program, demonstrating it instead.



I'll be back in your inbox this time next month with more great things happening at LWB. Until that time, never forget that you're changing lives every day.

Amy Eldridge
Chief Executive Officer
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Thank You!

"Every Child Counts"