

Is anyone else amazed that we are already to the very last month of 2021? It came so quickly that for the first time in my adult life, I haven't started Christmas shopping yet. Instead of using the "global supply chain shortage" as my excuse, I can honestly say it's because so many incredible things are happening with our LWB programs around the world that I haven't had time yet to find the perfect gift for my grandkids. Since I still have 23 days to remedy that, I can spend this morning instead reflecting on some of my favorite moments that you made possible in November.

### More Beautiful Lives Saved



Our cardiac program in India, China, and Uganda made it possible for SEVENTEEN amazing children to receive heart surgery last month alone. Some of the beautiful kids who got their second chance at a healthy life include little Luna (left), who was born with a large hole between the upper chambers of her heart.

Her father, who stopped his education in primary school to work as a farmer, wrote in their Unity program application that he felt helpless not being able to save the life of his precious little girl. We are so thankful that through your kindness, Luna's heart was healed.

Other children who received heart surgery included handsome Ishana (right), who had surgery last week in India for a complex heart defect. I think when you look at his photo, you will agree that is the smile of a little boy who feels SO much healthier with a newly repaired heart.



## Food Relief to Impoverished Communities

Last month, you provided emergency food relief to over 3000 children who otherwise would have gone hungry. Yes, 3000 in one month alone. From the far northern regions of Uganda to children living at the Kolkata landfill in India, your gifts made it possible for us to deliver beans, rice, eggs, and more to families greatly suffering from the pandemic. Each time our delivery trucks show up in a community, we are greeted with cheers, dancing, and tears of joy. Here are just two of my favorite photos last month from this essential project.



## Welcome Baby Sebastian

It never gets any easier to know that a tiny baby has been found abandoned. Each time we receive that call, we wish there was a way to magically turn back the clock to support the family in keeping their child. Sometimes that simply isn't possible, however, and then our Healing Homes program fills an essential need. In November, we were contacted by an orphanage in central China who had received a new baby boy who was born with a heart defect and was struggling with severe pneumonia. Our manager immediately arranged for little Sebastian to transfer to our healing home so he could receive all the TLC he needed to recover. I'm happy to report that after just a short time in our care, he is already looking so much stronger. We can't wait to cheer on his progress.



## "Catch Up" Class in Cambodia



When we first opened our Rangsei Village Believe in Me School in rural Cambodia, we had a long waiting list of children who wanted a chance to join our education program. What we didn't have at the time was any available classroom space to increase enrollment. That all changed this year when we completed a new classroom block on the campus, which will allow an additional 150 kids living in extreme poverty to finally get an education. One of the classrooms has some particularly excited children now attending, and that's our unique "catch up" class. Sadly in

Cambodia, there are still many children who never get a chance to ever begin school. Perhaps they have to work to help provide for their family, or maybe their parents migrate to search for jobs and leave them home in charge of baby siblings. Whatever the reason, we have met many children age 10 and up who have never had the opportunity to learn to read and write. I'm sure you can imagine that most 12-14 year olds wouldn't want to be put into a kindergarten or first grade classroom, as they would feel embarrassed to be with the "little kids." So we brainstormed together and created a special classroom where the older children can feel completely comfortable catching up on academic essentials. In November, the doors to this special class officially opened, and every child who comes each day continually hears the message that it's never too late to dream of a brighter future.

## With So Many Thanks

December marks the month when we hold our annual fundraising campaign, which this year has one of my favorite themes ever: BECAUSE OF YOU. All of the great things I get to write about each month are a direct result of your kindness, and I never forget for a moment that while our teams can send me the most amazing ideas on how to impact more children, none of it happens without your support. We are just so grateful.

Amy Eldridge  
Chief Executive Officer  
amy.eldridge@lwmail.com



*Thank You!*

*"Every Child Counts"*