

Hi everyone,

It's October 1st, which means I've torn off another page of my calendar (yes, I still use old-school paper) and I get to look back at some of my favorite moments that your kindness made happen. September saw so many wonderful things occur for the children in our programs, so let me dive right in to my top five.



### **Food, Food, and More Food**

First and foremost, I want to thank everyone who gave to our recent Food Relief campaign. This community's generosity has made it possible for us to deliver tens of thousands of pounds of emergency food staples to hungry children and families who have nowhere else to turn for help. Your recent gifts mean this life-sustaining program can continue to the end of the year, helping children like Ruby and her brothers whose single mom had to flee severe domestic violence. When the LWB trucks arrived to their village in Uganda, the smiles on the children's faces upon seeing the big sacks of beans, rice, and corn deeply moved our team. It's such a joy to celebrate full stomachs and full hearts.

## Essential Medical Care

LWB is one of the last remaining foreign charities in China which is allowed to provide medical care for orphaned children, and I continually give thanks that we can help them finally get the care they deserve. 10-year-old Bowen was born with bilateral clubfeet, which had never been repaired at his orphanage in central China, severely limiting his mobility. Thankfully the hospital we partner with felt that Bowen could still be treated despite his older age, and in September he had his second casting procedure done. I know you'll join with us in hoping that Bowen will someday be able to walk on his own.



## New Education Program in India

LWB launched our first education initiative in India during September, which is helping 140 children in a high trafficking region of West Bengal. Since schools have been closed due to COVID, many children in this area are at an even higher risk of child labor and exploitation. This project supports 5 village education centers which will keep children engaged with the joy of learning, while providing a safe place for them to hear the message that their lives truly matter.



### **Cardiac Initiative**

September saw another wonderful group of children receive critical heart surgeries, and I want to share just three of the special kids who benefited. On the left is little Nadia from China, who was born with a large hole between the upper chambers of her heart. In the middle is adorable Ratul, who underwent cardiac surgery in India to repair a complex TOF heart defect. And finally is gorgeous Jackie, who is definitely our miracle girl of the month. Her heart had begun to fail since she had been unable to receive the operation she needed as a baby in Uganda. We all cheered when she came through her high-risk surgery, but shortly after she became septic and then coded. She was unresponsive for almost ten minutes...but then mercifully her heart began to beat again. While she will need to remain in the hospital for several more weeks as her kidneys and heart fully recover, we are lifting up thanks every single day that her beautiful smile is still lighting up the world.



## Cleft Care

LWB's commitment to children born with cleft lip and palate continued in September as well, with children in both China and India undergoing life-changing operations. One of the babies who received surgery was 8-month-old Edna, whose family lives on the Tibetan plateau. Her mom told our team, "The village where I live is remote and really hard to reach because the road is so bad. There are natural disasters frequently, and most of the people can only do farm work for a living." Unable to come up with the funds needed for their baby girl to have her cleft lip repaired, LWB was honored to stand beside them to make sure little Edna could receive her new smile.

While it's always hard for me to choose which projects to highlight each month when our teams around the world work so hard each day to help as many children as they can, I hope these monthly snapshots let you better understand the incredible breadth of impact you make possible.

I know I say thank you a lot....but I mean it from the bottom of my heart. I need to start thinking of more creative ways to express my gratitude, so today I'll sign off with a huge "Weebale," which means thank you in Luganda (spoken in central Uganda). Since there are over 40 native languages there, I still have a lot to learn!

Until next month....keep being amazing. You're changing lives every day.

Amy Eldridge  
Chief Executive Officer

*Thank You!*

*"Every Child Counts"*