

Happy February everyone, and let's just pretend that on Groundhog Day the little guy didn't predict six more weeks of winter this morning for those of us in the Northern Hemisphere.

No matter where you might be located, however, here are some stories from this past month to warm your heart. I'm so very grateful for each and every person who celebrates with us that Every Child Counts.

### Great News from Uganda

Our medical program in Uganda provides a wide variety of surgeries and treatments for children whose poverty keeps them from receiving medical care. In January, we met a little boy named Akab whose health was suffering from a large mass discovered in one of his kidneys. The surgeon was concerned the tumor was malignant, so LWB arranged for the operation he needed to remove the damaged kidney. We all waited on pins and needles for the biopsy results and were overjoyed when we received the news that this handsome little boy is cancer-free!



### A New Baby to Love

We welcomed another beautiful boy to the China Healing Home in January, from an orphanage we have recently begun helping in the central region. Please meet baby Leon, who has a malformed trachea and who struggles with repeated pneumonia and breathing issues. To make sure his breathing is monitored closely, our nannies have been wearing him around the home in a baby carrier, which little Leon absolutely loves. We give thanks that orphanages in China continue to call us when the children in their care need more support than a crowded institution can provide.



## Hope at the Landfill

In Cambodia, as the number of children living at the local landfill has risen exponentially, we have been doing everything we can to make sure the older children moving to the dumpsite have a chance at education. Many were reluctant to attend school for the first time as they were embarrassed about having to start in kindergarten or first grade. At our Rangsei school campus, we opened a special "catch-up" class for older kids so they could learn with their peers. In January, we celebrated that another four children (including Shane, pictured above in his LWB school uniform), made so much progress in the catch-up class that they were able to integrate into their regular grade-level classrooms. We are super proud of them for working so hard at learning to read and write!



## Hearts Healed in India and China

Did you know that in 2021, the LWB community made it possible for 142 children to have heart surgery? That's more than 2 children per week, which is so much more than a metric. It's literally lives saved.

In January, 7 more children in India were able to receive their needed cardiac operations. Tiny Adita came to us as an emergency case, after being born with a very rare and complex heart defect which could no longer wait for surgery. Thanks to donors who support our medical work, we were able to quickly say yes. She is still in the hospital as I type this, but she is off the ventilator and her heart function is excellent.





Also in January, one of my favorite stories involved baby Fernando.

When families apply to our Unity program, they often write very personal letters to explain why they need the help of complete strangers. I've seen over the years that they often share their hearts more openly when they are writing by themselves versus talking directly to one of our team members.

The letter we received from Fernando's mom was one of the hardest I've read. His mom wrote about growing up in rural village, living in complete poverty and immense hunger. Her sister was going to the hospital to fetch medicine for her sick parents one day and was never seen again. They spent years searching for her, to no avail. Soon after, her brother fell ill and passed away, leaving the family completely devastated.

When she finally got married and became pregnant, she began to feel joy in her life...but then a traffic accident while they were riding a bike took the life of her husband and unborn child. After years of grieving and working as a migrant worker, she met her second husband. They tried for 3 years to have a baby, with no success.

She then wrote: "On the night on August 30th, when I was back from work, I found a small bundle at the door way. Wrapped inside was a little tiny baby. With an uneasy feeling, I opened the blanket. The baby was tiny with faint gasping. The midnight wind was cool, so I took the baby inside. The second day, I and my husband took the baby to the police station. We wanted to see whether there's anyone would come to claim back the baby. A couple of days passed, nobody came for the baby. We thought maybe this was a gift from God. We started to think to adopt the child. We picked a good name for him. While we were still in the joy, God appeared playing a joke on me again. The child started to have fevers. We took him to hospital for medication. He was diagnosed with complicated heart, TOF. The doctor advised soonest surgery. We got shocked and fainted. We wouldn't believe this was true. We cannot possibly afford the expensive surgery. Our limited income can only maintain the basic living. While we're at loss, we heard LWB's Unity program can provide some funding assistance. We again see some hope. I herein plead with you to extend your helpful hand to save this poor child and help my poor family."

We accepted Fernando into our Unity program, and I'm so happy to share that he had successful heart surgery last month with LWB. His determined mama was finally able to rest her own heart and know that her little boy is now strong and healthy. It doesn't get much better than that.



And finally, I want to share with you our [2021 Impact Report](#), which is now posted to our website. I hope as you read it that you realize what an important part you play in helping to change the lives of children around the world. We just can't do it without you, and that is a fact I never take for granted.

I am leaving for Uganda in mid-February to visit our programs, so next month I will share more about the wonderful work happening there. Until then, let's keep waking up in hope; for when we come together as a united community, truly anything is possible.

Amy Eldridge  
Chief Executive Officer  
[amy.eldridge@lwmail.com](mailto:amy.eldridge@lwmail.com)

*Thank You!*

*“Every Child Counts”*