

Happy soon-to-be Spring to all our friends in the Northern Hemisphere and soon-to-be Fall for those in the Southern. Having just returned from Uganda, I actually got to stand right on the dividing line at the equator, which was a nice moment to lift thanks for our truly global community.

I am going to ask for a bit of grace as I write this monthly update, as I came home from Africa with COVID and am still recovering. But I didn't want to wait another day to share some of the wonderful things you made possible last month. Here are a few stories I don't want you to miss.

Family Care in Uganda

I'll start this newsletter in Uganda, as I was able to see firsthand just two weeks ago the beautiful transformations that occur when children are moved from orphanages to live with well-trained foster parents. In the far northern region of Pakwach, I met devoted LWB moms and dads who openly acknowledged the trauma that children coming from a life in institutional care have faced. The love and patience I got to witness them pour out on the orphaned children in their care was nothing short of magnificent. The foster father of Xavier (pictured above) quietly told me, "We are committed to seeing his heart become whole."

Even as we were in the middle of family visits, government officials from other regions were calling our Uganda Director, asking for help to move more children into home-based care. I give thanks that the momentum to close down orphanages continues to build and grow here. Every child deserves a family of his or her own, and your support provides this priceless gift.



Celebrating Baby Anil

Early last month, we were called about a tiny little boy in India who had a severe heart defect and needed urgent surgery. Right as we moved him to the hospital for care, he took a major turn for the worse. We soon learned he had contracted COVID, and doctors told us his odds of survival were slim. Thankfully Anil made it through, and as soon as he tested negative he underwent open heart surgery. The stress on his little body was immense, and there were several days where his life truly hung in the balance. Just last Friday, however, Anil was finally strong enough to discharge from the hospital, with a now healed heart.

His entire medical team gathered around his hospital bed to give a prayer of thanks for his life. I loved this photo they sent me. It sums up so perfectly our motto that Every Child Counts, with a host of caring adults doing everything in their power to make sure one precious child got his second chance.



Ryder Oh Ryder



In February, we cheered the most wonderful news that two-year-old Ryder, who has lived in our China Healing Home since he was a tiny newborn, has been chosen for domestic adoption. When he first came into our hands, at Christmas of 2019, he was in critical condition after being found abandoned with pneumonia and severe septicemia. This community wrapped their arms around him in every possible way. Now this wonderful little boy has a new and exciting life in front of him with a permanent family of his very own. Ryder...we wish you every joy and blessing!



When we first began our work in Cambodia, back in 2016, we held a village meeting with some of the most remarkable teens, whose big dreams of someday attending university seemed impossible to them due to crushing poverty. We made a commitment to these wonderful students, assuring them that if they studied hard to pass the college entrance exams and volunteered in their local communities, each of them would become eligible for an LWB college scholarship. Last month, 12 students from that initial group graduated from university, including Rosie (pictured above). This hard-working young woman, who majored in accounting, is the first in her family to achieve a college degree. We wish all of them a future filled with unlimited opportunities.

Thank you so much for being part of our work to bring authentic change to children and families in need. Each time I visit our programs in person, I love telling those I meet that everything we do is made possible because of the kindness and compassion of people like you.

Until next month....let's keep choosing HOPE. Thank you for bringing so much good to the world!

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Thank You!

“Every Child Counts”