

Happy April everyone! It's one of my favorite months as 3 of my 7 children have birthdays in it, although it sure makes coming up with creative ways to celebrate a bit more challenging. Time to put my thinking cap on yet again (and quickly).

April 1st also means I get to share some of the great things you made possible in March for some really wonderful children (no fooling). Here are a few of my favorite moments.

Keeping Families United



First up - meet Baby Rhonda. In March, she was one of the children healed through our China Unity Program, which helps provide essential medical care to families in extreme poverty. In their application to LWB, her father wrote a five-page letter, pleading with us to help provide the heart surgery his little girl needed to live. He ended his handwritten letter with the powerful and poignant words that no parent should ever have to write: "Please save my baby." Thanks to your support, the surgeons were able to do just that. When she was discharged last week, our local manager said the whole hospital floor was filled with joy, as a now energetic Rhonda kicked her legs exuberantly in her mom's arms. Her parents wanted us to pass on their sincere thanks to everyone who helped their daughter be healed.

Water Tanks in Uganda

Late last year, we asked this community to help fund personal water tanks in Uganda, so that families without easy access to clean water could have this precious resource at their homes. In March, we completed 13 more installations, bringing the total number of tanks gifted to families to a marvelous 100! One of the grateful recipients was Juliet, an older widow who is caring for her three grandchildren after their father was killed in a fatal traffic accident. Juliet describes herself as a "peasant farmer," working in other people's gardens to feed her grandchildren. She told us that the closest water source to their home is 3 km away, which means the children were walking almost 4 miles roundtrip, twice a day, to fill their yellow jerry cans. The family was overjoyed to receive the blessing of a water collection system right in their own yard.



Domestic Adoption in Cambodia

At the very beginning of LWB, we were encouraged to never be afraid of dreaming big. So when we began foster care in Cambodia, we immediately began asking about the possibility of domestic adoptions taking place for the children in our care. While there were domestic adoption laws on the books, actual adoptions of orphaned children were few and far between. I am elated to share that in March, our first court approved adoption took place for little Archie. This handsome little boy came into our care as a newborn, and he was placed with a loving couple who had been unable to have children. It took years of navigating the domestic adoption laws to get every single document through the judicial system, but just a few days ago we received the final court decree "establishing a full adoption" between Archie and his parents. Family permanency is our goal for every child in foster care, and I'm so grateful to our wonderful team in Cambodia for working so hard to ensure that ethical, legal adoptions can take place. Such an enormous joy!



Helping Families in Guatemala

Also in March, our teams on the ground delivered urgent food supplies to almost 2000 people experiencing hunger, including 100 families living in the rural village of Jumaytepeque, Guatemala. Griselda was one of the single moms who received critical food relief for the month. She lost her leg four years ago after being hit by a car. She shared with us that one of her life regrets is that following the accident, her daughter had to drop out of school in order to help the family earn funds to survive. It has been a very difficult struggle for them all, but knowing that people genuinely care about their well-being brought real comfort to their hearts.





Another Beautiful Life Saved

As you probably know, we normally try to raise money for individual children to have surgeries on the child sponsorship page of our website. Sometimes, however, babies come into our hands as emergency cases, needing urgent intervention to survive. Those are moments that general funds are critical, so that we can quickly say YES when we hear of great needs. In March, we learned of a baby boy in India named Ramesh, who had been born with TAPVR, a critical congenital heart defect that needs to be repaired soon after birth. Babies with this condition struggle to get enough oxygen, and Ramesh was brought by ambulance to the heart hospital. His rural parents were emotionally broken down over the fear of losing their little boy, as they could not afford his medical care. Isn't it wonderful that the LWB community makes it possible for children to get the life-saving medical care they need? Ramesh underwent surgery within hours of reaching the hospital, and we know you'll celebrate with us that he is recovering well post-op. Even after 19 years of doing this work, I never stop being in absolute awe that when we come together in love...children like Ramesh receive a completely different future.

And with that, I'll end this newsletter and send my DEEPEST THANKS for partnering with us to impact children around the world. You make it all possible through your kindness and compassion. I can't wait to share more stories of hope with you next month.

With a grateful heart,

Amy Eldridge
Chief Executive Officer

Thank You!

“Every Child Counts”