

Welcome to May! This is going to be a very exciting month in my family, as my youngest daughter will graduate with her nursing degree in just a few days. After growing up listening to all things LWB, it wasn't a surprise when she told me she wants to start her career at a children's hospital. I can't wait to see where she lands (and of course hope it's close to home).

And now on to the real reason for this message - diving into some of the great things you helped accomplish last month. It's always difficult to choose just a few to highlight, but since I mentioned graduations, I definitely want to share two special ones that happened in April at our China Healing Home.

### Jayson

How much do we love Jayson's smile? Especially when I remember that this outgoing little boy was so weak when he first came into our care, at age one, that he couldn't hold up his head. With lots of TLC and encouragement, Jayson is now walking, running, and charming everyone he meets. The nannies at the healing home sure will miss his wonderful hugs.



### Kasen

And then there's Kasen, who came to the healing home from an orphanage in Anhui province as a tiny baby born with Down syndrome. Now at age 3, he is the very picture of health. Both Kasen and Jayson graduated last month to our On-Site Family Care Program inside the Xiaoxian orphanage, so we will be able to keep monitoring their progress!



## Every Child Deserves a Family



In April, we were called by officials in Uganda about an unauthorized orphanage housing 35 children whose most basic needs were not being met. Our team of social workers immediately got to work, doing investigations and family tracing to help as many children as possible reunify with biological family. The remaining 23 children, who had no one to care for them, were then placed into LWB foster families who had already been through training. One of the girls who is now part of our Pakwach foster care program is little Aleisha, whose mom tragically died during childbirth at the age of only 15. Aleisha has been placed into a foster-to-adopt family, where she is receiving all the love and attention she so richly deserves.

## Impactful Water Projects



A few weeks ago, we received a request from a rural primary school in Uganda, whose students had to walk several miles each way to gather water before classes. A large water collection system was installed last month, and the children are so grateful that they will now have more time to spend on their studies.

And after learning that the children living at a landfill in Kolkata, India had no ready access to water, we decided to install a well for this overlooked community. Water was found in April, after drilling 500 feet down, which will make daily tasks we often take for granted, like bathing or cooking, so much easier for families.

## Another Life to Celebrate



Sweet Millie underwent heart surgery in April, after her parents learned about our Unity Initiative program for families living in poverty. Her father, who had to drop out of middle school to care for his disabled parents, told our team that while his life is difficult as a day laborer, his beautiful daughter brings him and his wife complete joy. When Millie began struggling to breathe soon after birth, they learned she had been born with multiple holes in her heart. This news devastated the family, as they knew they could never earn enough to afford the surgery she needed to save her life. We are so grateful to everyone who makes our medical work possible. Your gifts bring real hope each and every day.





### **Cleft Care in Central America**

Last month, we finalized plans for our 2022 cleft trip, which will be held in Guatemala later this year. I am grateful to everyone who donated to our cleft nutrition campaign last week. A large order of formula and cleft bottles will soon be on its way to vulnerable babies struggling to feed, thanks to this community.

As we flip yet another calendar page in 2022, let's keep working to bring hope to those who need it most. You know one of my favorite sayings at LWB is Every Child Counts, but I've also seen so clearly that every act of kindness counts as well. When we come together with generous, compassionate hearts...our world shines a little brighter.

Thank you for all the good you make possible. I'll be back with another message next month!

Amy Eldridge  
Chief Executive Officer

*Thank You!*

*“Every Child Counts”*