

Sending you my warmest greetings and wishing you a very happy start to July. How can we already be halfway through 2022? As I flipped another calendar page, I thought of a dear friend who once reminded me to never miss an opportunity to tell people how important they are, since time goes so quickly. Today I want to tell you once again that your support and care for the children in our programs means everything to us at LWB. As you read the following highlights from June, I hope you realize that you are changing the lives of so many wonderful children in truly significant ways.



Cleft Care

June was a busy month for us in our cleft program, as we finalized the medical team for our upcoming cleft surgery trip to Guatemala. We were given an additional operating room at the hospital we will be using in Antigua, so that even more beautiful children will find healing. We are so excited to resume our cleft trips after a much-too-long hiatus due to COVID. I'll definitely be sharing more news on this soon.

In China, our partnership with Gansu Provincial Hospital continued to bring new smiles to babies born with cleft, including 6-month-old Ginny, pictured above. This darling little girl was born to rural migrant workers, who had no means to provide her with the operation she needed to be accepted in her village. I'm happy to report that she sailed through her lip surgery and was able to leave the hospital just last week.

Foster Care in Uganda

June was an exciting month for our foster care program in Uganda. We signed an agreement with officials in the town of Iganga to begin moving children from orphanages in the region to family-based care instead. This means we will now provide loving homes to orphaned and abandoned children in three areas of Uganda, bringing us one step closer to our goal of having model foster care available in the north, south, east, and west. There are so many wonderful stories from this program last month, but I want to share one special joy. Baby Josephine, who has been receiving an abundance of love and support from her foster parents, cleared the HIV virus from her system in June! We know you will join us in celebrating her renewed health.



Food Support in Guatemala



I've mentioned before that Guatemala has one of the highest rates of child malnutrition in the Western Hemisphere, and for the past year we've been working to bring essential nutrition to vulnerable children here. Last month, deliveries were made to 104 families who have children with Down syndrome. Our team on the ground was saddened to learn that many family relationships ended once the diagnosis became known, leaving many moms in truly desperate situations. Our manager Yeni wrote in her report, "I am very proud of these mothers because they told me they now see life in a different way. They know they must never give up. When they feel that their world is falling apart, they only see their children and know they must fight even harder for their future." I send our deepest thanks to you for making it possible to respond to their needs quickly and abundantly!

Changing the World, One Child at a Time

Binita - India

When we first learned about baby Binita, we knew she had a very complex heart condition. The surgeons were honest that the operation she needed was high-risk, and that if she survived surgery, she would most likely need an extended time of recovery. I'm overjoyed to report that after 3 weeks on a ventilator and 6 long weeks in the ICU, little Binita was finally able to go home from the hospital just a few weeks ago. Hooray that her life was saved and that she will continue to bless our world with her beautiful presence.



Charlee - China

We accepted eight children to our China Unity program in June, including 2-year-old Charlee. This adorable little girl was born with a large hole between the lower chambers of her heart, which could only be repaired through surgery. Her impoverished parents honestly admitted that they felt like giving up, but thanks to your support, little Charlee was admitted to the cardiac hospital on the last day of June. She will undergo heart surgery within the next few days. New hope is coming her way!



True Determination

I've written before about some of the children who are my heroes, inspiring me daily with their perseverance and strength. Today, I'd like you to meet Leona, who is part of our Cambodian education program. Leona has faced every obstacle you can imagine, growing up at a local landfill where none of the children attended school before our involvement. From the moment we met her, however, we knew she was someone special. An active learner and voracious reader, Leona worked nonstop to catch up with other children her age academically and then surpass them. Very soon, she will become the first child at the landfill to graduate from high school! Last month, she joined an orientation program to learn more about applying to university, and you know we will once again stand with her to help make her dreams of a brighter future a reality. Through her unwavering determination and hard work, Leona is almost there. We are just so thankful for the generous support of this community, which has provided this remarkable young woman with what she needs to soar. How wonderful is that?

I'll be back in your inbox next month, with more stories of hope that YOU make possible. Until then....know that every member of the LWB team is just so grateful for your compassion and kindness.

Amy Eldridge
Chief Executive Officer
amy.eldridge@lwbmail.com

Thank You!

"Every Child Counts"