2022 was a year full of reunions, progress, and renewed commitment to peace and partnership in Vietnam. PeaceTrees expanded mine action programs in both Quảng Trị and Quảng Bình Provinces, implemented post-clearance development projects to support environmental resilience, and welcomed students to a new kindergarten just in time for the new school year. In September, our Seattle-based staff traveled to Vietnam and joyfully reunited with in-country colleagues and organizational partners after three years apart, kicking off the return of PeaceTrees' Citizen Diplomacy Program.

In October, we celebrated our 27th Anniversary with supporters and friends. Our keynote speaker, Giles Duley, urged everyone to continue conversations about the legacy of war and shared, "For me, a landmine victim only becomes a survivor when they are given the opportunity to rebuild their life." Giles' profound words were echoed through our work as we closed the year by delivering 101 scholarships to mine impacted students. After 27 years, PeaceTrees' vision remains a Vietnam completely cleared of dangerous explosive ordnance and communities fully supported in their goals for safety, education, and economic success.
PeaceTrees’ humanitarian mine action programs remained efficient and productive throughout 2022, building on our 2020 expansion to Quảng Trị’s neighboring province, Quảng Bình. We are pleased to report on the incredible growth we have achieved in both provinces. PeaceTrees now has over 200 deminers working in the field every day to remove explosive ordnance and release land back to communities.

Quảng Trị Province

In 2022, we safely cleared 6,743 items of explosive ordnance in Quảng Trị Province, and released a record total of 6,741,028 square meters of safe land back to communities for their use. In addition to mine clearance, PeaceTrees continued our lifesaving Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) program to help families know exactly what to do if they encounter a suspected bomb. 1,922 EORE sessions were held, benefiting 17,810 people.

Tragically, there were also two EO accidents in 2022, one of which was fatal. PeaceTrees was able to offer financial support to both families impacted by these accidents through our survivor assistance program. These accidents were the first in several years, and tragically emphasize the continued need for EORE and clearance work in central Vietnam.

Quảng Bình Province

Since beginning work in Quảng Bình Province in 2020, PeaceTrees has cleared over 3,169,132 square meters of land and removed 4,479 explosive remnants of war. In 2022, PeaceTrees teams delivered 1,260 EORE sessions. These sessions were conducted in a variety of ways, ranging from small scale conversations with people in remote villages to large EORE sessions at local primary and secondary schools to help deliver information to hundreds of students at a time. EORE events at schools often include trivia style games and other hands-on activities to engage students and support their learning. PeaceTrees’ long-term approach has enabled us to build trusting, collaborative, and effective partnerships in Quảng Bình and maximize our impact. We look forward to safely accelerating our demining work and expanding our presence in Quảng Bình and beyond.
Post-Clearance Development

Supporting Climate Resilience

PeaceTrees is committed to supporting communities throughout central Vietnam as they begin to address challenges caused and exacerbated by climate change. Over the last year, PeaceTrees has continued building programs to support the families most impacted by the devastating storms and floods of 2020. In addition to the dwarf banana project in Ta Lao Village, PeaceTrees provided a water well in Cu Ty Village, started a goat husbandry program in Huong Hoa District, and helped move families into new homes through the Huong Viet Commune Resettlement Project. Working at the intersection of land and people, PeaceTrees aims to provide meaningful support to communities facing climate change related challenges so they can thrive now and into the future.

Scholarships

PeaceTrees’ scholarship program began in 2005 to support the children of Quảng Trị whose parents were impacted by an Explosive Ordnance (EO) accident. Today, scholarships are still awarded to students who have been impacted by an EO accident, in addition to students facing financial hardships, who are living with a disability, and ethnic minority girls. In 2022, a total of 321 scholarships were awarded to students from primary school through college from Quảng Bình and Quảng Trị Provinces.

Kindergartens

With generous support from our donors and friends, PeaceTrees sponsored two kindergartens in 2022. In September, just in time for the new school year, the CuTy Kindergarten was completed in Quảng Trị Province. There are now 47 students who attend this beautiful two-room school. In December, the USC Peace Kindergarten in Cup Village opened, bringing the total number of PeaceTrees sponsored schools to 22. Special thanks to the Walter B. and Marie W. Williams International Friendship Fund and the USC School of Aviation Safety for helping make these schools possible! In 2023, more than 500 students will attend a PeaceTrees Kindergarten!
Organizational Information

2022 Financial Overview

PeaceTrees is proud that our financial statements reflect our commitment to providing direct support to those most impacted by the legacy of war in Vietnam. Our work transforms contaminated land into spaces for education, peace, and economic success.

Revenue and Support
Unrestricted Contributions: $530,080
Restricted Contributions: $103,633
Government Grants: $3,138,860
Total Revenue: $3,772,572

Operating Expenses
Administrative: $182,280
Fundraising: $178,440
Total Operation Expenses: $360,720

Direct Program Expenses:
Mine Action Operations: $2,493,565
Economic Development: $50,807
Survivor Assistance and Scholarships: $53,156
Total Direct Program Expenses: $2,597,528

Board of Directors and Staff

2022 Board of Directors
Doug Alexander
Ron Beman
Megan Bowman- Board President
Stephen Chentow
Kevin Espirito
Dan Gilman
Carolyn Harper- Treasurer
Lisa Kartiganer
Brendan Murphy
Lisa Nelson
Daniel Nguyen
Kate Ruffing
Mary Wagner- Secretary
Sue Warner-Bean- Vice President

2022 Staff
Seattle Office
Claire Yunker- Executive Director
Crystal Oswald-Herold- Program Director
Carlie Stowe- Project Manager
Natalie Lawrence- Community Engagement Manager
Jen West- Bookkeeper
Laura Van Arsdel - Academic Intern

Dong Ha Office
Pham Thi Hoang Ha- Country Director
Vo Thi Kieu Oanh- Finance Manager
Vu Thi Van Anh- Program Manager
Le Viet Suu- Information and Database Manager
Truong Thanh Ha- Technical Manager
Doan Thi Bich Thao- Development Program Coordinator
Hoang Dang Tung- Public Relations Officer
Pham Minh Phuong- Database and Log Officer
Tran Thi Thu Huong- Citizen Diplomacy Project Officer
Hoang Thi My Hanh- Environment Project Officer
Vo Van Trung - Driver
Duong Binh – Guard & Maintenance Assistant

Explosive Ordnance Disposal Response Teams and Provincial Project Staff
PeaceTrees Vietnam’s work would not be possible without our Explosive Ordnance Disposal Response Teams and Provincial Project Office Staff. We now have 200 deminers working every day to transform land into spaces for education and peace, and 18 project staff working in Quảng Trị and Quảng Bình Provinces.

PeaceTrees Vietnam Volunteers & Citizen Diplomats
We would like to extend a special thank you to the dedicated volunteers and Citizen Diplomats who graciously gave their time and energy to support the work of PeaceTrees Vietnam in 2022.