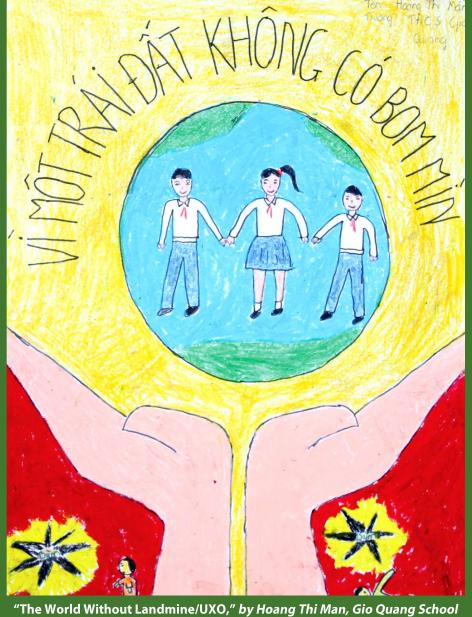


PeaceTrees VietNam

Healing the Land • Building Community • Planting Futures

2014 **Annual Report**

Reversing the Legacy of War | Planting Hope for the Future













PeaceTrees Vietnam Annual Report | 2014

- **Board of Directors & Staff 2**
- **About PeaceTrees Vietnam 3**
 - **Our Mission and Vision 4**

Our Programs

- Landmine and Unexploded Ordnance Clearance; Mine Risk Education 5
 - Citizen Diplomacy and Tree Planting; Microcredit Lending 6
 - Survivor Assistance ; Community Building 7
 - 19 Years of Progress and Impact
 - 2014: Year in Review 8
 - Key 2014 Accomplishments 9

Stories to Share

- The Ba Long Village Pilot Project 10
- **Sunflower Kindergarten and Lotus Friendship Library 11**
 - **Humanitarian Demining 12**

Looking Ahead

The Year to Come 13

Organization Information

- Partners & Grants 14
 - **Our Donors 15**
 - Financials 16

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Explosive Ordnance Disposal Team

Volunteers

A special thank you to all our dedicated volunteers who graciously gave their time and talents to support the work we do.



The story of PeaceTrees Vietnam

Lieutenant Daniel Cheney, a U.S. Army helicopter pilot, was killed in 1969 during the Vietnam War. His sister Jerilyn Brusseau and his mother Rae Cheney were determined to honor his memory by fostering a legacy of peace and compassion in a land ravaged by conflict. When diplomatic relations were reestablished with Vietnam in 1995, Jerilyn and her friends traveled to the country with a mission: clear the land of the scars and remnants of war; plant trees and fresh hope in their place.

PeaceTrees Vietnam Today

Today, PeaceTrees Vietnam is a Seattle-based humanitarian 501(c)(3) organization working in Central Vietnam to assist those whose lives and livelihoods are threatened by the explosive remnants of war. Founded in 1995, PeaceTrees Vietnam was the first international non-governmental organization given permission to engage in humanitarian demining work in Vietnam after the war.

PeaceTrees Vietnam's goal is to ensure the health and safety of the children and families of Central Vietnam. Our work is focused in two Districts of Quang Tri Province, Dakrong and Huong Hoa. This is one of the poorest and most war-torn regions of the country. Even today, more than 40 years after the war's end, nearly 85% percent of the land remains unsafe, riddled with landmines, bombs, grenades and other unexploded ordnance (UXO). In one out of every five UXO-related accidents, the victim is a child.

PeaceTrees Vietnam is a strong believer that mine action involves more than just clearing the land. Today, our mine action work has expanded to include sponsoring the removal of landmines and UXO, promoting mine risk education and accident prevention education, engaging in environmental and community restoration projects, conducting tree-planting citizen diplomacy programs for environmental restoration and friendship building, offering assistance to UXO victims and their families, microcredit lending, and sponsoring economic and social development.





PeaceTrees Vietnam is a humanitarian organization dedicated to healing communities affected by war. We accomplish this through landmine removal and education, survivor assistance, and citizen diplomacy.



Our Vision

Our vision is to create a safe and healthy future for the children and families of Central Vietnam.

Our Programs

Landmine and Unexploded Ordnance Clearance

A key part of PeaceTrees Vietnam's work is sponsoring the clearance of landmines and UXO in Central Vietnam. There is a great need for this clearance work, as almost 85% of land in Quang Tri Province is still designated as potentially unsafe.

Over the past 19 years we have achieved remarkable results, removing more than 85,900 dangerous weapons from the land – landmines, bombs, mortar shells, and grenades. In these cleared areas, farmers can once again plow their fields without fear and, in turn, feed their families.



Our two Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) teams work throughout the year to ensure the safety of the people of Quang Tri Province. Not one team member has been injured by explosive material in the removal process.



Mine Risk Education

The prevalence of landmines and UXO in Central Vietnam makes mine risk education (MRE) a priority. Because many unexploded bombs and landmines look like toys, children pick them up not knowing the consequences until it is too late. One out of every five landmine victims is a child.

The cornerstone of PeaceTrees Vietnam's MRE program is the Danaan Parry Landmine Education Center, the only center of its kind in Vietnam. With support from the U.S. Department of State, we held a mine risk education camp in honor of International Children's Day in June this year. More than 300 students attended to learn about the dangers of UXO and how to remain safe when encountering them. The camp featured a poster and essay contest, which encouraged at-risk students to think deeply and creatively about mine risk issues that affect their daily lives.

"I recognize that joining the MRE group is the right and meaningful decision, not only for me but also for the people around me, for my family and my poor and small homeland. I hope that each of us, besides learning to protect ourselves, talk about this to others, about the danger of UXOs. For the safety of us and of other people, let share with them these messages of MRE."

-Bui Thi Hue, essay contestant from Gio Quang Secondary school

Our Programs



PeaceTrees Vietnam was founded with the goal of promoting peace, friendship, and renewal by building understanding and respect between Americans and Vietnamese. Citizen diplomacy trips allow travelers to experience Vietnam from a unique and rewarding perspective. By bringing people together to plant trees and share a meal, a laugh, or a tear, we create affirmative experiences for people and help dismantle stereotypes.

This year we hosted 3 citizen diplomacy trips with a total of 45 travelers. We were excited to partner with the University of Puget Sound for the trip in November, where 28 students experienced our work firsthand in Vietnam. It is inspiring that students are interested to learn about the painful history that the U.S. and Vietnam share and strive for a peaceful future. We are always proud to work alongside schools and universities to bring American and Vietnamese people together to sow seeds of friendship. This not only helps heal the legacy of war, but creates a legacy of peace and friendship.



Microcredit Lending

Quang Tri Province is one of the poorest in Vietnam. Extensive landmine and UXO contamination impedes citizens' full participation in a wide range of productive economic activities. To help improve the standard of living, PeaceTrees Vietnam supports a microcredit program, administered jointly with the Quang Tri Province Women's Union.

Loan recipients use the funds to sustain the productivity of their livestock and land for economic and entrepreneurial purposes. Training programs are held for loan recipients, emphasizing nutrition, sanitation, housing quality, and community participation. Five years after receiving the loan—once recipients have the capacity and resources to maintain a healthier and self-sustainable livelihood—the principal is paid back and circulated in a revolving fund. This program model significantly enhances women's empowerment, generating momentum in support of the country's gender equality goals.

Our Programs

Survivor Assistance

As part of our life-saving work, PeaceTrees Vietnam offers assistance to UXO victims and their families through emergency medical treatment, long-term health care, nutritional support, household economic support, educational scholarships, and microcredit lending. During our 19 years of work, we have provided survivor assistance to more than 957 UXO victims and their families.

This year, 7 victims were provided medical and economic assistance. Additionally, two victims received scholarships for their college education.



Community Building: Homes, Kindergartens, and Libraries

PeaceTrees Vietnam believes that community building is an essential part of mine action. Our community building program is flourishing, with a new kindergarten and library built this year and more planned for next year. These projects do more than just provide classrooms and gathering places for the children and families of Quang Tri province; they are the foundation for a safe and healthy future.

Over the last 19 years, PeaceTrees Vietnam has built a 100-home village, 12 libraries, 9 kindergartens, 1 computer lab, and 2 community centers.



Children playing at a PeaceTrees kindergarten

Our kindergartens provide intervention at a crucial time for children in ethnic minority communities whose primary language is not Vietnamese. The children benefit greatly from learning Vietnamese in kindergarten before they start primary school, which is taught in Vietnamese. We are committed to improving the chance that these children will succeed in their education. Our libraries serve as book lending centers, meeting halls, venues for sporting and cultural events, and domestic violence safe shelters. These buildings create favorable conditions for the local community—especially for women and children—to have a better chance to study and increase their knowledge so that they can more actively contribute to the development of the village.



PeaceTrees Vietnam had another exciting and successful year! Our achievements could not have been realized without the generous support from donors, volunteers, and staff. We thank all our supporters for helping us continue our crucial work as we promote peace and friendship in Central Vietnam.

In June, we held a mine risk education camp at the Danaan Parry Landmine Education Center. Over 300 students participated in our essay and poster contest to learn about the dangers of UXO and how to remain safe and unharmed when encountering such a threat.

We certainly achieved remarkable milestones in our community-building program as well. We celebrated the completion of our ninth kindergarten, the Sunflower Kindergarten in Khe Sanh Village. With access to nutritious meals, a playground to safely play, and a classroom to learn and grow, the children of the village finally have a safe space to flourish.

The Lotus Friendship Library in Mo O Commune was also completed in 2014. This is PeaceTrees Vietnam's 12th library. Our libraries provide the community access to more than just books. They also serve as local meeting halls, places where children can play without the fear of landmines, and points of access to information on agricultural production, economy, culture, mine risk education, and society. They are places to teach, learn, and grow.

A third community-building project, the Ba Long Village Project, was also completed this year. This is the first of its kind, a hybrid

project incorporating the dual missions of UXO clearance and community building. Riverside dwellers constantly lost their homes due to floods and storms, and the commune wanted the people to have the opportunity to live safely on higher ground. After land was cleared to construct a new village, the Ba Long Community Center was also built. The Community Center now serves as a meeting place, a training and learning space, and a venue for cultural and sporting events. This project is a valuable example of how precious land becomes viable after the important work of PeaceTrees demining teams.

The year ended with our third citizen diplomacy trip of 2014, in partnership with the University of Puget Sound. A group of students travelled to Vietnam and met with our in-country staff to make cherished connections and engage in our work of cultivating a new legacy of peace.

Our 19th Anniversary Luncheon in November was a significant milestone for PeaceTrees Vietnam. Over 390 friends joined us to gather, share a meal and stories, and celebrate. Together we surpassed our goal and raised over \$200,000! We are grateful for our generous donors, whose support helps us continue to build a future of peace in Quang Tri Province.

We are looking forward to another successful year in 2015. From all of us at PeaceTrees, thank you once again for your support in 2014 and for your ongoing commitment to creating a safe and healthy future for children and families in Central Vietnam. Please, join us again in 2015 as we continue our life-saving work!



Piloting a Project, Piloting a Purpose

In 2014, PeaceTrees Vietnam successfully completed the innovative Ba Long Village Pilot Project. Located in Da Krong District, Ba Long Village has a poverty rate of over 17%. Up to 28% of children under the age of five suffer from malnutrition. This insufficient quality of life is due to the troubled history of the area – Ba Long Village was a battlefield during the American War.

Consequently, the land is riddled with UXO, contaminating the land and making it extremely dangerous for villagers. The area is frequently hit by typhoons and is highly susceptible to flooding and landslides, limiting farming projects and further exposing UXO. However, residents of Ba Long Village rely primarily on farming for survival. Homes and valuable land were being lost with alarming frequency.

Ba Long Village Pilot Project in Numbers

Total Detected Area:

98.8 acres with depth 30 cm
123.5 acres with depth 3 m
Disposed Signal (scraps of metal):

21,457
Total Disposed UXO: 621

Thus, inspiration moved PeaceTrees Vietnam and other individuals to launch the Ba Long Village Pilot Project. With the goal of improving the safety and nutrition of the local population, and the economic development of the community, site clearance commenced so villagers could have the opportunity to relocate their homes to safer higher ground. The project was achieved in partnership with the U.S. Department of State, which matched \$75,000 raised by private donors including Sahale Snacks and Costco. This generous and innovative matching fund grant helped clear more than 220 acres of landmines and explosives. The project was concluded in July 2014, and the 220 cleared acres are now safe for reforestation, agriculture, and relocation purposes. Home sites for the new village were drawn on October 30th, and construction of the first 50 homes has already begun.







Ba Long Community Center

We are proud that the Ba Long Village Project inspired so many. Motivated to further help the citizens of Ba Long Village, project sponsor Dr. Dan Gilman and numerous private donors raised funds to build the Ba Long Community Center. The Community Center was designed to provide vital poverty intervention and community support. It is now a safe place that serves as a meeting hall, a learning place for children and adults, and a venue for cultural events. The success of the Ba Long Pilot Village Project is indeed inspiring to all, and will serve as a model for other community development projects aimed to heal the land and reverse the legacy of war.



Sunflower and Lotus: Planting Seeds of Change

This year, PeaceTrees Vietnam completed its ninth kindergarten! Although PeaceTrees Vietnam's eight existing kindergartens have been successful in bringing community-based early education and healthy meal programs to communities, action is still necessary. Quang Tri's Women's Union identified Khe Sanh Village as having a high need for a kindergarten, as the existing school was inadequate to address the needs of the village's children.

With the sponsorship of Mary Van Cleve and the generous support from donors, Sunflower Kindergarten was built. It is now a place where indigenous children can learn Vietnamese so they have the capacity to advance to primary school. Nutritious meals are provided to the children, 30% of whom were malnourished. The kindergarten—which includes a classroom, kitchen, and playground—is now a place where children can flourish and live, learn, and play without the fear of landmines.



Lotus Friendship Library

The Lotus Friendship Library project is the epitome of how a common vision and a concerted effort can bring about significant change. The legacy of war has significantly obstructed the socioeconomic progress of the Mo O Commune, Da Krong District. Inhabitants suffer from high poverty rates and low literacy levels.

Significant funds were raised through the leadership of project sponsors Megan McCloskey, Diann Logie, Jim Lewis, Sue Warner-Bean, and Marci Williams to construct the library. The vision was to create favorable conditions for the local community to have a better chance to study and increase their knowledge so they can more actively contribute to the development of the locality. The goal of the fundraising efforts was also to empower the local women and improve their standard of living. Funds were raised in partnership with U.S. Marine Corps Vietnam Veteran Joe Rowe. Recently diagnosed with cancer caused by Agent Orange, Joe's time is short and his goal is clear: he wants to channel the outpouring of support he has received from friends and family to help build a hopeful future for the children of Mo O.

Indeed, the Lotus Friendship Library now provides access to information on agricultural production, economy, culture, mine risk education, and society. It serves as a local meeting hall and is equipped with a playground so that there will be a safe place for children to play. The library has already successfully served as a domestic violence safe shelter. A vision for a better and healthier future was achieved at Mo O Commune through the passionate effort of many.



Working from the Ground Up: Humanitarian Demining



Story to Share: The Distant Cassava Farm

En route to a village survey in northern Huong Hoa District, our EOD team came across an elderly man waving to team members from the side of the road. The man, Hiep, led deminers on a one mile detour to his cassava farm where they found the eroded and rusty nose of a bomb protruding from the ground. The team was shocked to discover that it was an MK82 bomb, weighing a staggering 500 pounds. Additionally, Hiep's neighbors notified the deminers of munitions they found on their land.

Removal was difficult. As curious villagers watched from a distance, the eight team members moved the 500 pound MK82 as well as the other UXO for disposal. As the team members prepared to bring the munitions to nearby Khe Sanh for disposal, Hiep expressed a deep appreciation for the deminers who brought safety to his farm and family. He expressed his hope that our team would return soon to expose and disarm any remaining ERW in the area so he and his neighbors could live without fear of UXO.



Humanitarian Demining in Numbers

85,400+ dangerous weapons removed, including landmines, bombs, mortar shells, and grenades

846+ acres of land cleared

Not one of our team members has been injured during clearing tasks

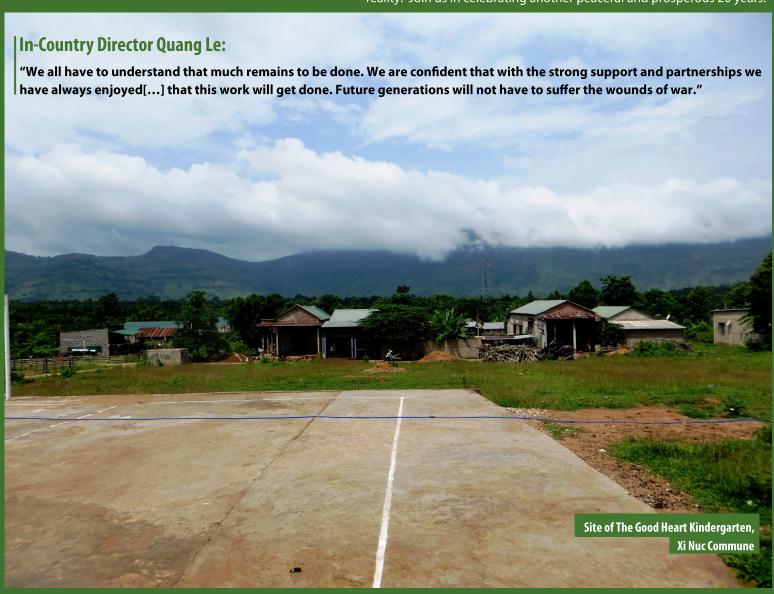
The Year to Come: Celebrating 20 Years

We look forward to another incredible year in 2015, where we will continue to support the educational, economic, and social advancement for those in Quang Tri Province.

2015 is a momentous year because we will celebrate PeaceTrees Vietnam's 20th Anniversary! Since 1995, PeaceTrees Vietnam has been reaching out to the Vietnamese people in a grass roots way to express caring and to promote healing the wounds from the war's emotional, economic, and environmental losses. PeaceTrees Vietnam is committed to continuing this mission. Although there is much to be done to reverse the legacy of war, PeaceTrees Vietnam is unyielding in our vision and efforts to help bring safety and well-being to those of Central Vietnam.

Building on the momentum of the past 20 years, we are commencing 2015 with an invigorating start. We have initiated the construction of our 10th kindergarten in Xi Nuc Village, Huong Hoa District. Xi Nuc lacked a kindergarten, so children had to study in an old meeting room in the village. The new facility will create a more conducive learning environment for at least 45 kindergarten-aged children, and will support the health, learning, and advancement of these mostly ethnic minority students. The Good Heart Kindergarten will be dedicated in April 2015.

We are excited for the year to come. We thank our donors, volunteers, and staff whose support makes the vision of PeaceTrees Vietnam a reality. Join us in celebrating another peaceful and prosperous 20 years!



Partners & Grants

The seeds of PeaceTrees Vietnam have grown and flourished with the support of invaluable partners in the United States and Vietnam. Committed to the belief that collaboration will help both countries heal the scars of war, PeaceTrees Vietnam establishes partnerships with a wide array of government and citizen organizations that share the common goals of healing the land, building community and planting futures in Central Vietnam.

U.S. Partners

United States Department of State – Office of Weapons Removal & Abatement
Golden West Foundation
Marshall Legacy Institute
The Seattle Foundation
Vietnamese Friendship Association
Vietnam Veteran's Memorial Fund
Sahale Snacks, Inc.
Fran's Chocolates

Vietnam Partners

The Vietnam Union of Friendship Organizations
The Vietnam-USA Society
People's Aid Coordinating Committee
The Vietnam Women's Union
People's Committee Quang Tri Province
Quang Tri Provine Department of Foreign Affiars
The Vietnam Women's Union of Quang Tri Province
People's Committee Dong Ha Town

Grants & Awards

Hayward Family Foundation Roy A. Hunt Foundation Washington Women's Foundation Grace Episcopal Church Seattle International Foundation

PeaceTrees Vietnam is grateful to our supporters whose remarkable contributions have allowed us to continue to renew relationships with the people of Vietnam and promote a safe, healthy future for its families and children. We are extremely thankful for the outstanding support from longtime friends and new donors. We offer our heartfelt thanks to the thousands of supporters we do not have space to list, including the many who gave of their valuable time.

Thank You

\$10,000 - \$100,000+

Hayward Family Foundation • Bob Stokes & Sue Schroeter-Stokes • Sahale Snacks, Inc. • Eve & Chap Alvord • University of Puget Sound • Dan Gilman • David & Carol Hansen • Anonymous • Kongsgaard-Goldman Foundation

\$5,000+

The Seattle Foundation • Susan Loftus • Fran's Chocolates • Linda & Mac Cheever • Harris & Lynda Martin • Tracy & Tom Garland • Neil Leonard • Thomas & Margaret Hayward • Deanna Livingstone • Jarrod & Carolyn Lampier • The Sexton Family Foundation • Kay Bullitt • Karyl & Elias Alvord

\$2,500+

Bourke Kennedy • Microsoft Matching Gifts Program • Colleen Hayward • Pascha Scott & David Prindle • Pam & Leonard Johnson • Diann Logie • Mary Van Cleve • Pacific Basin Partnership • Combined Federal Campaign • Grace Episcopal Church • Sarah Horrigan • Seattle International Foundation • Elizabeth Rudolf • Jerri Potts • Chuck & Missy Meadows • Chinoise Café • Jean Chen • Dana & Nancy Quitslund • Golf Co. 2/5 Association • Cynthia Chirot • Lyn Tangen & Richard Barbieri • Jeff Nielsen • Alyson McGregor • Don Hacherl • Bill & Paula Clapp • Scott & Monica Anderson

\$1,000+

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\$500+

Emma Loftus • Karl & Anne Marlantes • Anthony Marino • Bruce Detert • Emily VonBronkhorst • Joshua Schroeter • Nancy Pearson & Roland Yancey • Jim Moore & Kristi Branch • Nancy Melton • Michael Graves & Jenny McFarland • Russell Investments • Bill & Karla Center • Joshua Benditt • Lake Oswego United Methodist Church • John Stadler • Virginia Kirn • Ronald & Linda Forest • Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund • Jeffrey Brown • Sandra M. Broberg • Ron Beman • Dallas Young • Peggy & John Stephens • Greta & Peter Lichtenbaum • Marjorie Hillson • Frank Gibbons • Lady Borton • Janet & Keith Espirito • Lisa Phan • Mark & Louisa Davis • T.L. & Dee Youngman • Craig Wright • Carol & David Winkler • Washington Women's Foundation • V'Ella Warren • Lisa Vila & Gil Greenman • Randy Urmston & Eliza Davidson • Michael Troyer • Marie Tran • The June Foundation • Amie Ta • Patricia Stott Stewart • Steven Buty & Erin VanBronkhorst • Gordon & Mary Starkebaum • Trish Snyder • Robert Short & Emer Dooley • Anne & Michael Sherry • Matt Sauri • Ruth Kagi • Review Foundation • Sally & John Renn • Michaelle Quackenbush • Thoa Nguyen & Barry O'Young • Deborah & Glenn Nease • James & Lisa Nau • June Meyers • Gary & Gwen Fuji-McLaughlin • Katharine Maus • Arthur Lynch • Peter & Melinda Lucas • Lockhart Fine Foods • Gary Locke • Chuck & Carlene Lagerloef • La Salle Street Partners LLC • Floyd Jones • Ouida Hemingway • Catherine Hazen • Mike & Kathy Havers • Bill & Carolyn Harper • H&N Foods • Michael Grisso • Roger Gilman • Catherine Gibson • Charles & Rose Ann Finkel • Reba Ferguson • Benjamin R. Engelking • Kristi Drake • Phuc Dang • Cooper Family Foundation • Kim Cook • Church of Our Saviour • Salvador Cekus • Phyllis Campbell • Dorothy Bullitt • Nancy & Daniel Brown-Pope • Christopher Bloom • Tyler Bass • Smily Anthony & David Maymudes • John & Andrea Adams

Financials

Audited financial statements for 2014 are not yet available.

However, if you would like information regarding our unaudited financials for 2014, please contact our office at 206.441.6136 or info@peacetreesvietnam.org.

Audited financial statements for 2013 are available online at http://www.peacetreesvietnam.org/wp-content/uploads/2013-Annual-Report-with-Financials.pdf or you may contact our office at 206.441.6136 or info@peacetreesvietnam.org.

Thank you!





PeaceTrees Vietnam

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