

January 2021 Newsletter

We hope that you and your loved ones had a peaceful and healthy holiday season! With the first day of Tết, the Vietnamese Lunar New Year, just around the corner we would like to wish all our friends **Chúc Mừng Năm Mới** or Happy Lunar New Year!

As we welcome 2021, we also welcome the year of the buffalo! In Vietnam, the buffalo symbolizes inner strength, dedication, patience, and leadership. Despite the setbacks of this last year, we hope the coming year brings opportunities for all of us to practice and embrace the buffalo's characteristics.

This newsletter contains highlights from the end of 2020, important project updates, and opportunities to connect with the PeaceTrees community. This past year would not have been possible without your support. We are excited to walk and work alongside you throughout the new year.



A citizen diplomat traveler riding a water buffalo (the national animal of Vietnam) in Hoi An, January 2020

Wrapping up 2020:

As many of you were made aware, landslides caused by flooding moved and unearthed many unexploded ordnance. In December alone, PeaceTrees EOD teams responded to 138 calls from the community about potentially dangerous remnants and were able to safely destroy 315 remnants of war in Dakrong and Huong Hoa districts in Quang Tri Province.

In the final three months of last year, PeaceTrees was able to clear **763,303 square meters of land!** This accomplishment means that 6,690 people are now safe to walk, play, and work on their land without fear.



A PeaceTrees EOD technician preparing to safely destroy ordnance (December 2020)



A pair of PeaceTrees EOD technicians searching for unexploded ordnance (December 2020)

Celebrating Tết in Seattle:

In past years, PeaceTrees Vietnam has enjoyed celebrating the Lunar New Year by participating in Tết in Seattle at the Seattle Center. Tết in Seattle is a volunteer community organization that typically produces a two-day festival to celebrate the Lunar New Year. Since 1996, Tết in Seattle has celebrated multiculturalism by showcasing the food, art, music, and traditions of Vietnamese people in the Pacific Northwest. We hope you will join them for their virtual events, which will be unlocked throughout this eight-day virtual festival. This year, Tết in Seattle will be hosting a virtual celebration from February 5th-12th!

[Click here to visit their website and learn how you can participate!](#)

Tết in Seattle is also promoting a restaurant week that celebrates Vietnamese cuisine! Participating restaurants will be offering various discounts from February 12th-22nd. We encourage you to order takeout from a participating restaurant to celebrate The Lunar New Year and support our local businesses.



Students at a PeaceTrees kindergarten celebrate Tết by receiving lucky envelopes with treats inside (2020)



Click the photo above to visit the Facebook event page to learn more about the Tết in Seattle Restaurant Week

PeaceTrees Community Facebook Group

If you are missing travel as much as we are, we have a Facebook group for you to join! The **PeaceTrees Community** is a group where friends and supporters of our work can connect, collaborate, share memories of their time traveling, and more! The PeaceTrees staff will be posting regular project updates, sharing photos from past citizen diplomat trips, sharing VIP content, and encouraging discussion amongst the members. We know it can feel difficult to stay connected these days, but we hope this group offers an opportunity to converse with people from all over who are passionate about our mission and Vietnam.

Join the PeaceTrees Community to learn more about our work and connect with other travelers and supporters! [Click here and request to join.](#)



Citizen diplomacy travelers on an eco-tour in Hoi An, January 2020

Season Four of the Vietnamese Boat People Podcast

Our friends at the Vietnamese Boat People Podcast have just launched season four! Host Tracey Nguyen Mang brings the voices of Vietnamese and Vietnamese Americans to life with stories of survival, hope, and resilience. [Click here to listen to the first episode of season four.](#) and be sure to subscribe to Vietnamese Boat People wherever you listen to podcasts.

Vietnamese Boat People are also hosting their second annual Story Slam. This year's theme is "2020: A Year Unlike Any Other." Individuals 18 and older, are invited to submit personal stories of their Vietnamese American perspective on how the events of 2020 have impacted them as Asian Americans.



Click the photo above to learn more about submitting a story for VBP's second annual story slam

What We're Excited About:

A PeaceTrees Travel Story Series

Do you have a story about your experience traveling with PeaceTrees? If you would like to have your testimonial shared in our newsletter and on social media, we would love to hear from you! While we have put our citizen diplomacy trips on hold until 2022, we still want to showcase the powerful experiences that accompany a trip with PeaceTrees!

Email natalie@peacetreesvietnam.org to share your story about traveling with PeaceTrees.



Citizen diplomacy traveler and children at the Cheerful Children Kindergarten dedication, January 2020



Citizen diplomats and PeaceTrees staff pose for a group photo in Hoi An, January 2020

Looking for a creative way to support PeaceTrees Vietnam from home?



When you do your holiday shopping this year, consider Amazon Smile and set PeaceTrees as your beneficiary. AmazonSmile is a program that donates 0.5% of your eligible purchases on Amazon to a charity of your choice.

All you need to do is start your shopping at smile.amazon.com. The donation will be made at no extra cost to you and you will be contributing to PeaceTrees Vietnam's lifesaving work while you shop!



For more information contact us at 206-441-6136 or info@peacetreesvietnam.org

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