



Stories from the Field: *PeaceTrees Vietnam in Action*

August 2018

Introducing Ha Pham; PeaceTrees' New In-Country Director



Dear PeaceTrees Vietnam Community,

Many of you know me already, but I am writing to you for the first time as the new In-Country Director for PeaceTrees Vietnam. This new position is a big challenge, of course, but also a great honor for me. PeaceTrees has helped me grow into the person I am today. I have worked with

PeaceTrees for the last 16 years and it is something like my second home.

In this new position as In-Country Director, my biggest goal is to continue growing PeaceTrees as an organization. This will include maintaining and developing the values and trust that PeaceTrees has cultivated for the past 23 years. It will also mean continuing to develop and lead a well-motivated and effective team of national staff who can support the development of the organization and its projects. Together, we will reinforce and build partnerships, friendships, and trust between PeaceTrees and partners and we will continue to support local communities in reversing the legacies of war and creating a safer and better future.

I very much look forward to continuing to build a sustainable and impactful organization.

With warm wishes,
Ha Pham

In the News:

In May, our teams in Vietnam received a lot of press coverage for their safe disposal of three 2,000 pound MK84 aircraft bombs that were found throughout Quang Tri Province. One of the bombs was found in a backyard stream by a man working in his field in Huong Hoa District. All three bombs were moved safely and destroyed at our coastal demolition site.



Mid-Year Update on PeaceTrees' Explosive Ordnance Disposal:

**Unexploded Ordnance
Cleared: 2,784**

**Land Cleared: 496,159 square
meters cleared (122 acres)**

Team Field Visits: 825

**Mine Risk Education Sessions:
1,147 sessions**

**Mine Risk Education
Beneficiaries: 6,700 people**

Total Beneficiaries: 25,429 people

Raising Awareness for Mine Action - 1 day, 2 countries, 2 events!

On April 4th, 2018, PeaceTrees hosted events in Vietnam and the USA to raise awareness about mine action. April 4th is designated by the United Nations as the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action. In Dong Ha, our team partnered with other demining agencies and provincial officials to recognize the work being done in Quang Tri. The event included a motorbike parade, educational presentation, children's mine risk education posters, and a UXO demolition demonstration led by our deminers. Half way around the world in Seattle, PeaceTrees supporters gathered at the Wing Luke Museum to learn about the technical aspects of demining through a series of action stations and interactive UXO models.



Event in Dong Ha



Motorbike parade, Dong Ha



Event in Seattle

Dash Friendship Kindergarten Update:

Thanks to the generous support of the McMichael family, the Dash Friendship Kindergarten in Cooc Village is well underway! Cooc Village is in a high-need mountainous commune of Huong Hoa District in Quang Tri Province. This kindergarten will provide 53 young children with the opportunity to receive a formal education, and a safe space clear of unexploded ordnance in which to play. The ethnic minority children that attend the kindergarten will learn Vietnamese, and be given the tools necessary to continue their early childhood education. The Dash Friendship Kindergarten is scheduled to open at the

end of September, and will improve the lives of those living in Cooc Village!



Dash Friendship Kindergarten under construction



To find out more about our kindergartens and how you can get involved, visit:
www.peacetreesvietnam.org/what-we-do

Scholarship Spotlight: We've Got Mail!

Since 2005, PeaceTrees has collaboratively worked with families and communities to support children ages 5 to 22 so they can access education at all levels from primary school to college. PeaceTrees scholarships cover full tuition, uniforms, books, meals, and additional administrative fees that families would otherwise be unable to pay. To date, we have provided scholarships to over 2000 ethnic minority and mine accident affected children. Financial support for PeaceTrees' scholarships is generously provided by One Day's Wages, the Hayward Family Foundation, the Sonja Hope Foundation, the Sasha Huynh Family, and many individual PeaceTrees donors.

The letter of thanks below was written by a scholarship recipient who received support through the Huynh Family Foundation this past school year:

My name is Tran Van Luong and I am a student at Gio Linh High School in Quang Tri Province.

I am very delighted to receive this precious scholarship. The scholarship provided financial support and encouragement to help me overcome difficulties and struggles in the past year.

I was awarded a scholarship last June. On that day, I received not only the scholarship but also warm-hearted greetings, and strong encouragement from the PeaceTrees staff. I was touched by this moment and felt energized to overcome obstacles in my life. I also realized that many other people in Quang Tri are facing unfortunate situations similar to my own.

My mother died when I was 2 days old. My father raised me by himself for 17 years until he passed away, and left me alone. I received the scholarship 7 months later. While my parents are no longer by my side, I will try to study hard and live a proud life. I'm very grateful and appreciative of your kindness, generosity and the care that you have given me.

Thanks to this scholarship, I can pay for my studies. I now have new textbooks and new notebooks. I no longer learn from old books that are missing pages. These materials have helped me learn better. Because of this scholarship, I was awarded an excellent student award at the



provincial level. I was also acknowledged as an excellent secretary of the Youth Union for my school. PeaceTrees has always cared about disadvantaged students like me and has given us meaningful support. That really means a lot to us. I hope the program and PeaceTrees will further develop and continue to help those who have difficult lives, giving them a hand to stand up and get ahead. I myself, will try my best to repay your kindness.

Sincerely thanks,
Tran Van Luong

Please join us!

23rd Anniversary Luncheon
October 23, 2018
at 11:30 am
Four Seasons Hotel, Seattle

Please RSVP online at
www.peacetreesvietnam.org



Please join us to honor 23 years of building trust and partnerships with communities in central Vietnam, sponsoring safe clearance of dangerous bombs and mines, and cultivating a bright future for generations to come. Together we can respond to the urgent need for this lifesaving work and build a safer future for Vietnamese families still affected by war.

Get Involved with PeaceTrees Vietnam!

Travel with us to Vietnam in 2019! Our next Citizen Diplomacy trip with availability is scheduled for March 13th-28th, 2019! Registration is currently open for this trip led by Professor Christoph Giebel. If you are interested in joining us for this or a future trip, please email info@peacetreesvietnam.org or call (206) 441-6136 to learn more.

Invite us to speak at your school, church or community group.

Sign up for our email list on our website today.

Give online at www.peacetreesvietnam.org/donate
mail a check, or give us a call to make a donation.

*Thank you for making
our work possible!*

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