



**PeaceTrees**  
VietNam

2018 Annual Report



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2018 Staff

Seattle Office

Claire Yunker | *Executive Director*  
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 Rebecca Giovannozzi | *Program Coordinator*  
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 Robert Stokes | *Senior Advisor*  
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 Jen West | *Bookkeeper*  
 Jane Park | *Intern*  
 Ellie Deane | *Intern*  
 Stephanie Buecheler | *Intern*  
 Sakura Kishiro | *Intern*

Vietnam Office

Quang Le | *In-Country Director - July 2017*  
 Pham Thi Hoang Ha | *In-Country Director July 2017 -*  
 Vo Thi Kieu Oanh | *Accountant & Administration*  
 Vu Thi Van Anh | *Project Officer*  
 Doan Thi Bich Thao | *Project Officer*  
 Le Viet Suu | *Information Management Officer*  
 Hoang Tung | *Project Assistant*  
 Pham Minh Phuong | *Project Assistant*  
 Vo Van Trung | *Driver*  
 Duong Binh | *Security Officer*

Explosive Ordnance Disposal Team Response Teams

PeaceTrees Vietnam's work would not be possible without our Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Response Teams. In 2018 we expanded to six complete EOD teams. Three of the teams are based in Huong Hoa District, and three in Dakrong District.

Our Mission

Our mission is to heal the legacy of war by removing dangerous explosives, returning land to safe use, promoting peace and cultivating a brighter future for the children and families of Vietnam.

Our Vision

Our vision is a Vietnam completely cleared of dangerous unexploded ordnance and communities fully supported in their goals for safety, resiliency, education and economic success.

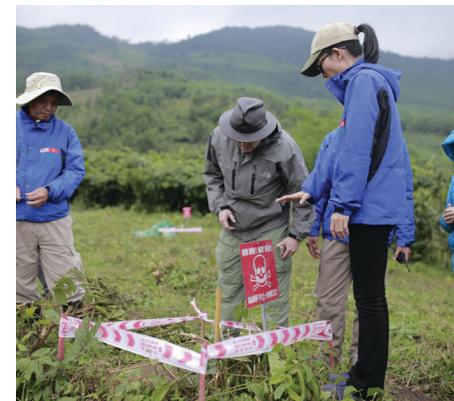
HUMANITARIAN DEMINING

PeaceTrees Vietnam's Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Teams grew significantly in 2018. Our work impacted **53,093 people** through humanitarian mine action programs.

We hired, trained and certified sixteen new deminers. PeaceTrees deminers continue to lead in experience and productivity. In total in 2018, **6,378 explosive remnants of war** were found and destroyed, including **10 large bombs**, one weighing more than **2,000 lbs.** The safe removal and destruction of explosives released **314 acres** of land back to communities in Huong Hoa and Da Krong districts. More than **75%** of this land will be used for farming, and the remaining **24%** is intended for residential areas and development.



PeaceTrees Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technicians



Citizen Diplomacy Visit to EOD clearance site, December 2018



Mine Risk Education Session being held in April 2018 at an EOD call out location



Mine Risk Education camp activities in October 2018

PeaceTrees continues to prioritize clearance requests for social welfare and community development purposes. PeaceTrees cleared **39** such sites for this purpose in 2018, which made land safe for **9 future schools, 7 public and social welfare construction projects** (including markets, community houses and health centers), **17 future roads, 4 agricultural areas, and 2 residential areas.**

PeaceTrees Vietnam continues to integrate Mine Risk Education (MRE) activities into every clearance task and callout. Throughout 2018 these activities have been emphasized and improved. Over the course of the year, **2,180 MRE sessions** were conducted for **15,438 recipients.** MRE activities not only provide risk education to local residents but also serve as a relationship building tool that helps to facilitate trust between EOD teams and local people.

1,273,274 SQUARE METERS CLEARED

In 2018



PeaceTrees Vietnam's 2018 in-country staff

## POST CLEARANCE EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### KINDERGARTENS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

The poverty rate in Quang Tri is more than 50% among the ethnic minority families. Nearly 62% of people in Quang Tri live below the poverty line, with an average per capita income of \$0.55 a day. Many of these families not only live in poverty but have family members who have been injured or killed in an accident involving a piece of unexploded ordnance. This places even more financial strain on a family already struggling to provide for itself. As a result, children are often unable to attend school, ultimately perpetuating a cycle of poverty as they grow up without an education and have fewer economic opportunities.

Access to education is a proven poverty reduction measure as it allows children to go to school, develop tangible skills, and become more economically secure. PeaceTrees ensures access to education for those who might not receive it through the construction of kindergartens and hot lunch programs. We also support education beyond kindergarten by awarding scholarships to mine accident affected and ethnic minority children in need of financial assistance.

This year, PeaceTrees dedicated **3** new kindergartens, and began construction on a **4th!**

- **Arthur Bustamante Kindergarten**, Ta Leng Village (dedicated in March 2018)
- **Ruong Kindergarten**, Ruong Village (dedicated in September 2018)
- **John C. Seel Kindergarten**, Ra Man Village (dedicated in September 2018)
- **Dash Friendship Kindergarten**, Cooc Village (currently open, dedicated in early 2019)

In total, PeaceTrees has built **15 kindergartens** through the generous support of our community here in the United States and our partnerships in Vietnam. These kindergartens allow approximately **525 children** to attend school each year. In 2018, **365 scholarships** were awarded to mine accident affected and ethnic minority children with financial need!



Arthur Bustamante Kindergarten  
Ta Leng Village dedicated March 2018



Ruong Kindergarten Dedication,  
September 2018



Ra Man Kindergarten dedication,  
September 2018



Dash Friendship Kindergarten built 2018,  
dedicated March 2019



Mine accident survivor Ho Van Kim and  
daughter Chin at scholarship ceremony



Scholarship ceremony in  
DaKrong District, August 2018

## POST CLEARANCE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### BLACK PEPPER PROJECT

In the spring of 2018, after three years of cultivation, pepper farmers harvested their first mature black pepper crop. Although small, this first harvest marked an important milestone in the project. Project partners purchased the farmers' black pepper at market prices, providing our farmers with a substantial portion of their annual income.



Black pepper harvest



Project participant in Huong Tan commune



Pepper plantation in Huong Tan commune

### HEALTHFUL GARDENS FOR HEALTHY CHILDREN

**Women's empowerment and self-sufficiency** is at the core of PeaceTrees Vietnam's work. The Healthful Gardens for Healthy Children project, implemented in partnership with the Quang Tri Province Women's Union, empowers women in ethnic minority communities to provide ample nutrition for their families and earn additional income from their gardens. By training women in post-conflict communities to become self-sufficient experts in vegetable farming practices, this project helps to reduce the rate of malnutrition that impacts one quarter of children country-wide. There are now **392** women participating in this program. In 2018 **all women** participants have successfully planted gardens and harvested crops, and **more than 10%** earned income by selling vegetables at the market. In 2019 we will continue to expand and support this project with a goal of fostering food security in these communities.



Healthful Gardens for Healthy Children  
Project in Huong Tan commune

### CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

**Providing access to clean water:** In 2018 a well was drilled Xa Lang village, Dakong commune which will ensure that **15 ethnic minority families have access to reliable clean water**. Previously, the families collected water from streams for household use, but during flooding or in dry seasons, this source of water was either insufficient or not safe for use. Having access to clean water and sanitation is proven to substantially improve the health of communities and also to support the economic empowerment of women in the communities.



Xa Lang Village well beneficiaries



**TRAVELING WITH PEACETREES**

In 2018, **51 travelers** participated in three Citizen Diplomacy delegations to Vietnam in order to make personal connections with Quang Tri residents by working alongside them, sharing meals and planting trees — and make lasting friendships. We hosted three distinct trips: our first historically focused trip led by UW professor Christoph Giebel, a trip celebrating 2 kindergarten dedications, and our first Gold Star Family trip!

Vietnam historian Christoph Giebel, who is a Professor of History and International Studies at the University of Washington led our first trip. The group of 15 travelers met on a weekly basis before the trip and several lectures were built into the itinerary in order to provide a deeper history of Vietnam, past conflicts, and the legacy of war. This trip allowed travelers the opportunity to gain a deeper understanding for the culture, history of Vietnam, and Vietnamese war legacy.



Professor Giebel educating travelers outside the Temple of Literature in Hanoi - March 2018

Our September Citizen Diplomacy Trip (CDT) was comprised of friends and families of the donors of two separate kindergartens. 26 travelers witnessed the dedication of the Ruong Kindergarten and the John C. Seel kindergarten. This was the first time we have ever had the pleasure of dedicating two kindergartens in one trip!

PeaceTrees Vietnam co-founder Jerilyn Brusseau led a commemorative 50th Anniversary Gold Star Family journey to honor 1st LT Daniel B. Cheney, US Army helicopter pilot, who gave his life on January 6, 1969 during military operations in Duc Hoa, Vietnam. During their trip, the delegation met with Vietnamese families who suffered losses in wartime, and visited Hanoi, Hue, PeaceTrees Headquarters and project sites across Quang Tri Province. Learn more about this journey through the words of Norm Knodt, who served as a Helicopter Pilot in Quang Tri Province, Vietnam from January 17, 1968 through January 8, 1969 (pg 9-10).



Ransom family at the dedication of the Ruong Kindergarten, September 2018



March 2018 CDT Group at the Hue Citadel



Dec 2018 CDT Group honoring Lt. Cheney on the 50th anniversary of his passing

**GOLD STAR FAMILY TRIP**

The Gold Star PeaceTrees Vietnam trip I participated in from December 28, 2018 through January 10, 2019 provided a unique opportunity to add a segment to what I've come to think of as "The Vietnam Part of My Life." I won't say this trip completes or closes my Vietnam experience, though, as I hope to return again with PeaceTrees.

My Vietnam journey began 50 years ago, on January 16, 1968. I arrived in Cam Rahn Bay at 20 years old, ready to serve as a US Army pilot of UH-1 B & C model armed helicopters while assigned to C Troop, 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division Airmobile (more commonly referred to as "The First Cav".)



Norman Knodt (Phuoc Vinh, December 1968) being awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross

While I was there as a soldier and for many years after, I thought about returning to Vietnam. I never got to meet any Vietnamese civilians or travel through the gorgeous country as a tourist. I believed in our purpose there at the time, but I bore no ill will towards the people, and I wanted to see the country thrive and prosper.

Before my trip back to Vietnam, I was excited! I was nervous! Mostly, I was curious. What would it be like to visit this place that I hadn't seen in half a century? What would the war-torn areas that I had been in be like today? What would the people be like? Would they accept me as a friend? I didn't expect them to. After all, during my previous visit I was an adversary. My primary operative was to inflict casualties with the weapons systems on our helicopters. Jerilyn Brusseau, who led our trip, understood, and assured me that I would be welcomed.

On day one, we checked in to our hotel in Hanoi, freshened up, then headed out for a special presentation from William "Buddy" Newell of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency which searches for POW/MIAs from the war. I had goosebumps, thinking of the 1,247 soldiers who have yet to be found, and their loved ones who've lived all these years without closure.

On day two we were granted a formal meeting with the Vietnam-USA society. There were 20 of us gathered around a conference table, including three families of Vietnamese fighter pilots killed during the war, three pilots who flew migs for the North Vietnamese Army, and one US Army gunship pilot: yours truly.

We went around the room, each person sharing their story. Nobody spoke besides the person telling his or her story, and nobody commented after. It was simply just - getting it out there. There were four Vietnamese women present, each of whom had lost either a husband or a father. They were tentative to speak, and one expressed that she still harbored "hatred" for the US. I understood. And, being the only one at the table who had likely caused loss instead of experiencing it myself, I was very nervous to speak. But I did. And they all listened.

After speaking, and hearing the others' stories, everyone agreed, it was as if a cloud had lifted. Nobody apologized, nobody made accusations. Everybody just listened. Afterward, we shared sang (Cont.)



Norman Knodt, Huong Hoa, January 2, 2019 examining artifacts with Vietnamese veteran



Norman Knodt and Terry Skeesick planting trees at the Daanan Parry Landmine Education Center

songs, had lunch and drinks together, and took photos. One of the Vietnamese fighter pilots asked my age, and when he learned I was four years younger, he declared that I was his younger brother, and he was my older brother! All of the animosity that had been present before the meeting appeared to be gone, and what was left was a room full of people with new-found understanding.

While in Dong Ha - my old unit's base, we did so much of note including planting trees in honor of loved ones (I planted three, and of course one of them was for my Linda, without whom this trip might not have happened).

We toured a PeaceTrees Healthful Garden Project near Khe Sanh. As we drove to the village, I followed along with my vintage map and my old photos. That's when I recognized a familiar mountain ridge, and realized it was none other than LZ Stud – the landing zone I knew from my first time in Vietnam. I was shocked to be there again!

What once had been part of the US military base for Operation Pegasus was now a thriving village with healthful gardens! The villagers hosted an absolutely incredible lunch for us. We ate together, sang songs together (a Vietnamese tradition) and I even met a man who had been a guide for the North Vietnamese Army! He lost his brother in 1966. Through Ha, the PeaceTrees In-Country Director, this man and I shared stories, examined old artifacts of war he had in his home, and we both left the conversation better people. I'll cherish the photos we took together.

During this time, we also visited two kindergartens made possible by PeaceTrees and the Quang Tri Province Women's Union: the Grace Kindergarten in Khe Sanh, and the Dan Cheney Kindergarten in Lao Bao. These experiences were a highlight of my time in Vietnam. The children were so cute. So funny. So ready to be happy and learn and play. We sang songs with them, taught them to do the hokey-pokey, created art projects together and played outside. Each one of those smiling faces left me feeling more and more certain about a bright future for Vietnam, and I hope their visit with people from the United States left a positive impression on them, as well.

The end of the trip brought us to Ho Chi Minh City, where we traveled to Duc Hoa, and the site where Lt. Daniel B. Cheney, at just 21 years old, had lost his life 50 years before. With the help of PeaceTrees, Jerilyn and Gail were able to track down the exact location of the crash. A home stands there now, on the banks of the Bobo Canal. The family who lives there today was gracious and accommodating – not only allowing us to hold a memorial there, but even loaning us tables we could use for the offerings. Between the graciousness of the Vietnamese family who allowed us to memorialize a US soldier there, and the connection we all felt honoring him at the end of such a special and emotional trip, it could not have been a more appropriate end to our time in Vietnam.

Before this trip, Vietnam and my experience there was so closely tied to the war that I didn't effectively separate the two. But today, my perception of Vietnam is so much bigger, so much better, so much grander, and so much more human. I'm more grateful for this experience than I can put into words, try as I have. I want to share it with everyone and I want to be a part of more. Sincerest thanks to the entire PeaceTrees staff for inviting me, including me, and for caring so tirelessly for humanity. Inspiring doesn't even come close.

Right: Norman Knodt playing with children at the Grace Church Kindergarten



STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

December 31, 2018

ASSETS

Cash	\$748,924
Advances to program providers & vendors	\$13,711
Property and equipment	\$140,151
Other assets	\$2,785
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>\$905,572</b>

LIABILITIES

Accounts payable & accrued expenses	\$19,706
Other liabilities	\$46,961
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>\$66,667</b>

NET ASSETS

Unrestricted net assets	\$671,447
Temporarily restricted assets	\$167,458
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>\$838,905</b>

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

December 31, 2018

REVENUE AND SUPPORT

Contributions	556,753
Government Grants	\$1,347,604
Program service revenue	\$132,043
Other	\$4,344
<b>Total revenue and support</b>	<b>\$2,040,744</b>

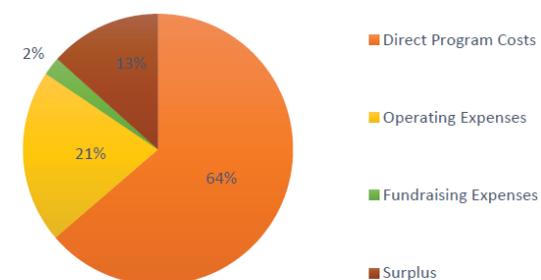
EXPENSES

Operating expenses	
Administration	\$388,588
Fundraising	\$40,890
In-Kind Expenses	\$4,274
<b>Total operating expenses</b>	<b>\$433,753</b>

Direct program expenses	
Landmine Clearance	\$1,105,098
Citizen Diplomacy	\$92,002
Economic Development	\$85,754
Survivor Asst & Scholarships	\$15,408
<b>Total direct program expenses</b>	<b>\$1,764,842</b>

<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>\$1,873,663</b>
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Direct Program Costs vs Operating Costs



2018 FISCAL OVERVIEW

PeaceTrees is proud that our financial statements show our investment in providing meaningful, and direct support to those most impacted by the legacy of war in Vietnam. Our programs support the economic empowerment of women and families, in turn empowering sustainable, resilient communities.

Left: Black pepper farmers selling their first crop





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CONNECT WITH US!



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