

July 2020 Newsletter



Celebrating 25 Years of Partnership and Friendship in Vietnam



This July 11th we recognized two important anniversaries - the 25th anniversary of normalized diplomatic relations between the US and Vietnam, and PeaceTrees' 25th Anniversary. To celebrate here in the US, we virtually gathered with citizen diplomats from around the country representing trips from 1996 onwards!

Highlights from the weekend reunion included cooking delicious food, learning about PeaceTrees future plans, listening to the organization's founding story, reminiscing about citizen diplomacy trips, and reconnecting with one another!



In Vietnam, our team celebrated 25 years of partnership by welcoming representatives from the US Embassy, the Quang Tri Women's Union, and the Quang Tri Department of Foreign Affairs to the Danaan Parry Landmine Education Center for commemorative activities. They planted trees, left messages of hope for the future, and painted a special 25th Anniversary mural seen in the video above.



PeaceTrees In-Country Director, Ha Pham, and Director of Quang Tri DoFA, Nguyen Trieu Thuong signing the 25th Anniversary Project MOU - July 20, 2020

In recognition of all that both countries have accomplished together over the past 25 years we are also honored to announce a 25th Anniversary Clearance Project, funded by a one-time grant from the US Department of State's Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement.

This special clearance project will help accelerate socio-economic development in Huong Hoa district and result in clearance of an additional 300,000 square meters of land. This project will have a meaningful impact on the lives of the most disadvantaged residents of Quang Tri while reinforcing the strong ties of friendship and mutual cooperation that exist between the United States and Vietnam.



On July 15th, PeaceTrees Vietnam was also honored to participate in a conversation hosted by the Stimson Center that explored bilateral relations between the United States and Vietnam, progress made on war legacy issues in the last 25 years, and the role that legacies of war continue play in both countries. PeaceTrees In-Country Director Ha Pham joined a panel including Senator Patrick Leahy, Ambassador Ha Kim

Ngoc, Ambassador Daniel Kritenbrink and others to share her experience and perspective. You can listen to the conversation in the video above.

We are honored to be a part of this important milestone between the US and Vietnam and looking forward to the next 25 years!

Your PeaceTrees Vietnam Luncheon Update:







MONDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2020



In light of ongoing concerns with COVID-19 and efforts to keep our community safe,

PeaceTrees Vietnam has decided to move our luncheon to a virtual platform! While we will not be able to gather at the Four Seasons, we hope that you will save the date and plan to join us virtually on October 19th as we celebrate 25 years of meaningful work in Vietnam. We are excited about the new opportunities that this format will provide for our programming and look forward to connecting with you virtually!

While meaningful progress has been made in creating safe land for children and families over the last 25 years, there is still much work to be done. As the world continues to navigate a shared crisis today, we must not forget those who have been increasingly marginalized by events of the past. Through PeaceTrees' work – and with your help – we will join our Vietnamese partners in actions of renewal. Together we can help children and families break the cycle of poverty, and provide immediate assistance to communities living in daily danger because of unexploded bombs and mines that remain from the Vietnam conflict.

We hope that you will join us this year to celebrate 25 years of life-saving work in Vietnam!

RSVP Here!

Announcing the Graduating Class of 2020!



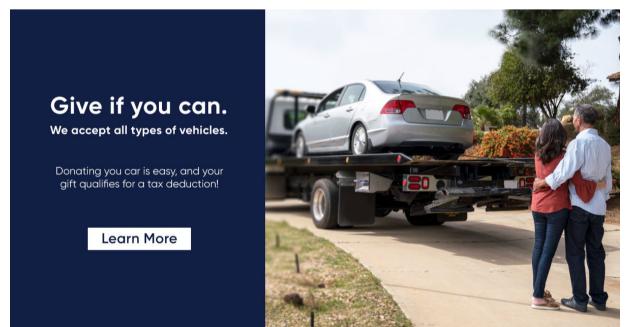
The 2020 graduating class at the Arthur Bustamante Kindergarten in Ta Leng Village, Da Krong District, Quang Tri Province

We are thrilled to present to you the graduating class of 2020! This month, 189 young scholars graduated from PeaceTrees' 16 kindergartens. To celebrate, PeaceTrees Vietnam gifted each child a new backpack to use when they enter first grade this fall. Join us in applauding these bright students and their latest achievements! <u>You can read more about PTVN's kindergartens and how we work to meet the needs of children who benefit the most from early education opportunities here.</u>



Children opening their graduation gifts at the Arthur Bustamante Kindergarten in Ta Leng Village, Da Krong District, Quang Tri Province

What We're Excited About:



PeaceTrees is now accepting vehicle donations!

PeaceTrees Vietnam is now accepting vehicle donations! We recently partnered with non-profit organization CARS to facilitate a PeaceTrees vehicle donation program. All vehicles are eligible for donation – even if they are not running. This includes cars, trucks, SUV's, motorcycles, boats, farm equipment, and even airplanes. CARS has extensive experience with all steps of the vehicle donation process from pick-up to sale.

Find out more about this new donation program at

https://careasy.org/nonprofit/peacetrees-vietnam or call the PeaceTrees office at 206-441-6136 to learn more.



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

Consider shopping with Amazon Smile and setting 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!



Contribute to PeaceTrees' work!

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

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