



November 2023 Newsletter

Thank You for Celebrating 28 Years of PeaceTrees Vietnam

We were honored to see many of you at PeaceTrees' 28th Anniversary Luncheon. Keynote speaker Rebecca Rusch shared a heartwarming journey of cycling the Ho Chi Minh Trail, uncovering the final resting place of her father, U.S. Air Force Captain Stephen Rusch. Ambassador Michael Michalak graciously presented the invitation to give, reinforcing the spirit of collaboration.

PeaceTrees Board Member, Daniel Nguyen guided us through the event with grace and enthusiasm, adding a special touch to the celebration. Executive Director Claire Yunker and Country Director Ha Pham provided insightful program updates, reflecting our commitment to positive change.

[Path With Art's](#) Veterans Choir moved us with their powerful performance, highlighting the transformative power of the arts. A special thank you to the Four Seasons Hotel for hosting us in their beautiful space, creating the perfect atmosphere for reflection and connection.

And, of course, our heartfelt gratitude goes out to all our supporters who gathered once again, making the event a true celebration of shared goals and enduring friendship.

Updates from Vietnam

Explosive Ordnance Risk Education with Quảng Bình Students

At the start of the new school year, PeaceTrees Vietnam partnered with Hải Ninh and Võ Ninh Secondary Schools in Quảng Bình Province, organizing two explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) events for 798 students and teachers on September 14th and 21st. These events aim to raise awareness about the dangers of explosive ordnance (EO) and minimize accidents. Integrated into the sessions were safety messages, EO information, and knowledge quizzes. Attendees also heard firsthand from an EO-accident survivor, gaining insights into the consequences of unsafe actions. Looking ahead, PeaceTrees Vietnam plans to continue collaborating with secondary schools in operational areas to expand these vital educational initiatives.



Student participants in Quảng Bình Province examine educational materials at EORE event



Students learn how to identify explosive ordnance at EORE in Quảng Bình Province

Large Bomb Removed in Hường Hóa District

In the ongoing efforts of the PeaceTrees Vietnam Quang Tri Project, our demining teams are actively engaged in explosive ordnance clearance at a confirmed hazardous area (CHA) in Hường Hóa District. On October 26th, the team discovered a sizable M117 bomb buried in a rice paddy field, posing a threat to the local community in this longstanding agricultural area. With meticulous care, PeaceTrees technicians safely excavated and relocated the 750-pound bomb to a secure location for demolition. The diligent efforts continue as PeaceTrees Vietnam addresses the persisting threat of bombs and explosive remnants of war, ensuring the safety and well-being of the local population and communities.



PeaceTrees demining technicians excavating a bomb found in a rice paddy in Hường Hóa District



PeaceTrees demining technicians measure 750-pound bomb removed in Hường Hóa District

PeaceTrees Awards New Scholarships

This October, PeaceTrees organized award ceremonies at three locations - Dong Ha, Đa Krông, and Hường Hóa, dedicated to students ranging from primary to high school levels. A total of 243 students in Quảng Trị were recipients of the PeaceTrees Vietnam Scholarship for the academic year 2023-2024; 20 in Primary School, 91 in Middle School, 80 in High School, and 52 in University.

None of this would be possible without your unwavering support. Your generosity is creating real change and shaping a brighter future for students in central Vietnam. Thank you for being a part of our scholarship program's success!



PeaceTrees staff members Van Anh and Huong pose with scholarship recipients in Đa Krông, Quảng Trị Province



Van Anh distributes gifts of school supplies to scholarship recipients in Đa Krông, Quảng Trị Province

Thank You for Joining Us This #GIVINGTUESDAY



As the holiday season approaches, we are inspired by the incredible generosity that defines this time of year. With the spirit of thanksgiving still in the air, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who joined us on Tuesday, November 28th, for #GivingTuesday, a global day of philanthropy and unity. This year, all donations went towards our scholarship program — your generosity directly impacted the futures of bright and ambitious students in need. By funding a full year of school fees, textbooks,

notebooks, uniforms, and additional administrative expenses, the scholarships ensure that financial barriers do not hinder a child's access to education. Thank you so much for helping PeaceTrees raise over \$2000 to support our scholarship program!

Are You Looking for Other Ways to Give?

Here are some tax-friendly ways to contribute to our lifesaving work:

Donate a Used Vehicle

Support PeaceTrees with a tax-deductible donation by donating your unwanted vehicles! In collaboration with CARS, a non-profit organization specializing in vehicle donations, the process is simple and accessible. Whether your vehicle is in running condition or not, it is eligible to donate. From cars, trucks, motorcycles, boats, farm equipment, or even airplanes, give your unused vehicle a new purpose and help contribute to PeaceTrees' mission!

Make a Gift of Stock

Donating stock directly to charity is a great way to save on taxes and maximize your impact! Download our [stock delivery instructions](#) to give to your financial advisor or institution.

What We're...

Watching: "How Did Tropical Vietnam Run Out Of Clean Water?" Episode of CNA Insider

Embark on a revealing journey in this episode of CNA Insider as they uncover Vietnam's pressing water crisis. Witness the daily struggle in Mekong Delta households, dependent on polluted rivers. With 80% of diseases traced to contaminated water, this documentary unravels the complexities, intensified by climate change, rising sea levels, and urban floods. [Click here](#) to explore the origins of Vietnam's water challenges and the search for practical solutions for a healthier, sustainable future.



Reading: "Pulitzer Prize-winning author Viet Thanh Nguyen on his favourite reads of 2023" by Vogue Singapore

In town for the Singapore Writers Festival, Nguyen shares with Vogue Singapore the six most captivating books that have captured his imagination in 2023. From the legacy of the Vietnam War to immigration, politics, and culture, Nguyen's writings reflect a rich tapestry of human experiences. [Click here](#) to delve into the literary landscape through the lens of one of today's most insightful authors.



Listening to: ["It's a Wrap!" on The Bánh Mì Chronicles](#)

In the final episode of The Bánh Mì Chronicles podcast, host Randy Kim reflects on a remarkable 4-year journey. Joined by Kenneth Nguyen, Marine Corp Veteran and host of The Vietnamese podcast, Randy delves into the behind-the-scenes of creating the series and provides a glimpse into what the future holds. This episode is not just a farewell; it's a celebration of the diverse stories shared by AAPI individuals in Chicago and beyond. Join Randy and his guests in cherishing the moments and insights that have made [The Banh Mi Chronicles](#) a wonderful ride.



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