August 2023 Newsletter

Save the Date for 28th Anniversary Luncheon

PeaceTrees is thrilled to share that our 28th Anniversary Luncheon will be an in-person event at the Four Seasons Hotel in Seattle. Mark your calendars for Thursday, November 9th, 2023, as we gather to hear updates and raise funds for our life-saving work. We look forward to reconnecting and honoring 28 years of peace and partnership. Registration and formal invitation to follow!

Updates from Vietnam

500 lb. Bomb Removed in Quảng Bình Province
On August 8, our dedicated Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) team successfully carried out an EOD spot task, making the area safer for all.

In the village of Tiên Tiến, Quảng Châu commune, Quảng Trach district, Quảng Bình province, while using an excavator, the operator Mr. Nguyễn Văn Xuân encountered a suspected bomb. Mr. Xuan reported the discovery to the commune-level military command, who immediately halted all construction and established a safety zone.

A PeaceTrees team was called to the site and carefully excavated the area to remove the bomb. Our experienced technical staff then assessed the situation and determined that the 500-pound MK82 GPLD bomb was stable enough to be safely removed from the ground. PeaceTrees is grateful for community members, like Mr. Xuan, who alert official authorities when they encounter a bomb or mine.
As we look back on the year 2022, gratitude fills our hearts for your friendship and support. As our collective relationship with COVID-19 changed, we were able to reunite our dedicated teams in both the United States and Vietnam. Our Citizen Diplomacy Program resumed its important impact, and the happy sounds of students returning to school resonated once again.

In the face of the trials that the past two years have presented, PeaceTrees still grew in every part of what we do. Today, we are thrilled to present our 2022 Annual Report to you – our friends and partners in the pursuit of peace. We invite you to read and reflect on the many ways in which your support has enabled PeaceTrees Vietnam to create a lasting impact throughout 2022. View our annual report by clicking here.

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**Support Mine Action in Southeast Asia!**

This week, PeaceTrees Vietnam is partnering with our colleagues in mine action to raise awareness about the ongoing legacy of war across Southeast Asia to ensure that the U.S. continues to support the elimination of lethal hazards from this region. Our goal is to send 6,000 letters to Congress this week, urging representatives to support demining programs. It's not too late to take a small action at home that will make a world of difference!

**U.S. Voters** - We invite you to take 30 seconds to sign this pre-drafted letter to your congressional representatives to let them know where you stand on this issue.
What We’re...

**Reading:** "Starbucks Vietnam: Why the US chain cannot crack a coffee-loving nation" at BBC News

Discover how Starbucks has fared in Vietnam over the past decade. Despite the nation’s love for coffee, Starbucks holds just a 2% market share, facing challenges like local preferences, high pricing, and competition. Dive into the article to understand why traditional Vietnamese coffee seems to win hearts over the global brand, learn insights on taste preferences, local favorites, pricing, and more. This is a fascinating look at how Starbucks navigates a coffee-rich culture.
Listening to: "Do We Get to Win This Time?" podcast, Episode Six "I Am Reality"
'Do We Get to Win This Time?' is a podcast delving into the profound impact of Vietnam movies on our perceptions of the U.S.-Vietnam War. In the sixth episode, host Brian Raftery engages in a conversation with Oliver Stone, discussing the creation of his iconic 1986 U.S.-Vietnam War film, 'Platoon.' Follow the link above to read an excerpt from the episode and learn more about this podcast exploring how the U.S.-Vietnam War has been portrayed by Hollywood.

Watching: "Spanish tourist's Cu Chi Tunnels video goes viral"
Spanish traveler Joe Hattab’s TikTok video captures his visit to Vietnam’s historic Cu Chi tunnels – the underground stronghold of Vietnamese soldiers during the U.S.-Vietnam War. With 40 million views and counting, it’s a digital sensation.

Donate a Used Vehicle to PeaceTrees
Make your tax-deductible gift to PeaceTrees by donating your unwanted vehicle! We partner with CARS, a nonprofit organization that facilitates vehicle donations. All vehicles are eligible for donation, even if they are not running! CARS makes it easy and gives your unwanted vehicle a new purpose.