



May 2023 Newsletter

Thank You for A Successful GiveBIG 2023!

What an incredible GiveBIG you helped make happen this year! PeaceTrees is so grateful for your support as we continue our life-changing education programs in Vietnam. With your help, we raised over \$12,000 which is enough to support scholarships for 120 primary school students. Thank you so much for supporting PeaceTrees and the work we do!



Updates from Vietnam

May Citizen Diplomacy Trip

This month, an Aviation Safety group from the University of Southern California joined PeaceTrees for a Citizen Diplomacy trip. Travelers got to visit Hanoi, meet with the USC Alumni Group in Ho Chi Minh City, meet with the founder of Vietnam Airlines, connect with Vietnamese Veterans, and attend the dedication ceremony for the Cup Kindergarten. The 22nd of PeaceTrees' kindergarten projects, this school was generously supported by members of the USC Aviation Safety program. To learn more about how this fundraising effort took shape, [we invite you to read this article on USC's School of Engineering website.](#)



A kindergarten teacher and traveler playing games together at the Cup Kindergarten dedication ceremony- Quảng Trị Province



Students, school staff, and Citizen Diplomats in a Cup Kindergarten classroom- Quảng Trị Province



An American Veteran/Citizen Diplomat connecting with Vietnamese Veterans at Khe Sahn/Ta Con Combat Base- Quảng Trị Province



Citizen diplomat posing in front of an army helicopter at Khe Sahn/Ta Con Combat Base- Quảng Trị Province

Museum of Flight Honors Veterans

On May 20th, PeaceTrees was graciously invited to join the Museum of Flight for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Park Tribute Wall Ceremony. In addition to recognizing the service of Veterans, the museum also honored families who have supported the installation of memorial plaques at the park. PeaceTrees co-founder, Jerilyn Brusseau, and PeaceTrees board member, Norm Knodt, gave moving speeches and afterwards a tree was planted to help honor PeaceTrees' work and mission. The plaque accompanying the tree reads, "PeaceTrees Vietnam is honored to partner with the Museum of Flight for the planting of this tree. The tree serves as a symbol of peace and friendship, and as an expression of our shared respect and appreciation for veterans, their families, and all Vietnamese people impacted by war. We honor their sacrifice and resilience, and reaffirm our commitment to building a more peaceful world."

Memorial Day 2023

This Memorial Day and every day PeaceTrees honors those who have served and sacrificed. In the spirit of this important day, we invite you to explore a [virtual tour](#) of the Vietnam War Wing at the Museum of American War Letters. **This exhibit includes numerous war letters from Vietnam**, many on public display for the first time ever, and other primary sources from wartime. However you choose to honor Memorial Day, we hope you find a moment for reflection, gratitude, and peace.



An American and Vietnamese Veteran planting a tree together in Quang Tri Province, Vietnam during a Citizen Diplomacy trip- 2012

What We're...

Watching:

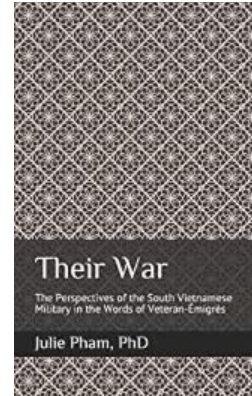
Acclaimed ultra-endurance mountain biker Rebecca Rusch and her Vietnamese riding partner, Huyen Nguyen, cycle thousands of kilometers along the Ho Chi Minh Trail in Vietnam in the fascinating documentary "[Blood Road](#)". Her ultimate destination on this arduous journey: the site where her father, a US Air Force pilot, was shot down during the war. Cinematic, touching, and inspiring, this film will take you on a ride of it's own.

[Watch the trailer here.](#)



Reading:

“Their War: The Perspectives of the South Vietnamese Military in the Words of Veteran-Emigres” is a deep introspective of a side not often heard in the historical tellings of the U.S.-Vietnam War. Dr. Julie Pham’s collection of stories gives uncommon context to a complicated era and offers insight into long standing narratives about the Vietnamese military.



Looking Forward To:

Little Saigon Creative Saturday Marketplace, June 3rd | 1227 S Weller St, Suite A, Seattle

Curated by Friends of Little Saigon, the Little Saigon Creative Marketplace showcases art and handcrafted goods from local Seattle artists and makers. From ceramics to prints to jewelry, the ever-changing offerings are available to peruse every 1st Saturday from 9am to 4pm.

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.

