



PeaceTrees VietNam

Healing the Land • Building Community • Planting Futures

2012 Annual Report

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(2009-2012)
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Volunteers

A special thank you to all our dedicated volunteers who graciously give of their time and talents to support the work we do.

Photo Credit: Photos in this report were taken by Quang Le of PeaceTrees Vietnam, Ron Beman, and Jeff Escalderon.

About PeaceTrees Vietnam

PeaceTrees Vietnam is a Seattle-based humanitarian 501(c)(3) organization working in Central Vietnam to assist those whose lives and livelihoods are threatened by the explosive remnants of war. Founded in 1995, PeaceTrees was the first international non-governmental organization given permission to engage in humanitarian demining work in Vietnam after the war.

Quang Tri Province, where our work is focused, is one of the poorest and most war-torn provinces of Vietnam. Over the last thirty five years, more than 10,800 people in the province have been killed or maimed by landmines and unexploded ordnance. In one out of every five cases, the victim is a child.

PeaceTrees believes that mine action involves more than clearing war-contaminated land. Today, our mine action work has expanded to include sponsoring the removal of landmines and unexploded ordnance (UXO); promoting mine risk education and accident prevention education; engaging in environmental and community restoration projects; conducting tree-planting/citizen diplomacy programs for environmental restoration and friendship building; offering assistance to UXO victims and their families; micro-credit lending; and sponsoring economic and social development.



OUR MISSION

PeaceTrees Vietnam is a humanitarian organization dedicated to healing communities affected by war. We accomplish this through landmine removal, education, survivor assistance, and citizen diplomacy.

OUR VISION

Our vision is to create a safe and healthy future for the children and families of Central Vietnam.

Our Programs

LANDMINE AND UNEXPLODED ORDNANCE CLEARANCE

PeaceTrees Vietnam's core work is sponsoring the clearance of landmines and unexploded ordnance (UXO) in Central Vietnam. There is a great need for this clearance work since nearly 84 percent of land in Quang Tri Province is still designated as potentially unsafe.

Over the last 17 years we have achieved remarkable results, removing from the land more than 78,000 dangerous weapons – landmines, bombs, mortar shells, and grenades. In those cleared areas, farmers can once again plow their fields without fear and, in turn, feed their families.

SURVIVOR ASSISTANCE

As part of its life-saving work, PeaceTrees Vietnam offers assistance to UXO victims and their families through emergency medical treatment, long-term medical or health care, nutritional support, household economic support, educational scholarships, and micro-credit lending.

During our 17 years of work, we have provided survivor assistance to more than 946 UXO victims and their families.

MINE RISK EDUCATION

The prevalence of landmines and UXO in Central Vietnam makes mine risk education a priority. Because many unexploded bombs and landmines look like toys, children pick them up not knowing of the consequences until it is too late. One out of every five landmine victims is a child.

The center of PeaceTrees' mine risk education program is the Danaan Parry Landmine Education Center, the only center of its kind in Vietnam. The Center provides education to children by displaying interactive materials about landmines and UXO. Additionally, the Center serves as a training center for Vietnamese volunteers who return to their own communities to teach mine awareness.



Our Programs

COMMUNITY BUILDING: HOMES, KINDERGARTENS & LIBRARIES

The landmine and UXO contamination in Quang Tri Province creates barriers to community development. PeaceTrees Vietnam believes that community building is an essential part of mine action. Therefore, PeaceTrees constructs kindergartens and libraries throughout the province. We work with local government organizations to identify those communities in the province with the greatest need and then partner with US citizens, families, and service groups to raise construction funds.



MICRO-CREDIT LENDING

Quang Tri Province is one of the poorest in Vietnam. The extensive landmine and UXO contamination impedes full participation in a wide range of productive economic activities.

To help improve the standard of living, PeaceTrees supports a micro-credit program, administered jointly with the Quang Tri Province Women's Union. Modest loans provided to women permit small business enterprises, such as tailoring, and family-based income generation through animal husbandry and farm-to-market agricultural production.

CITIZEN DIPLOMACY TRIPS & TREE PLANTING

PeaceTrees was founded with the goal of promoting peace, friendship, and renewal by building understanding and respect between Americans and Vietnamese. By bringing people together to plant trees, share a meal, a laugh or a tear, we create affirmative experiences for people and reach beyond stereotypes. Travelers experience Vietnam from a unique and rewarding perspective.

2012: Year in Review

Thanks to the generous support of donors, volunteers, and staff, 2012 was another successful year for PeaceTrees Vietnam.

The year began with the unique Veterans in Action Citizen Diplomacy trip. The trip was convened by Vietnam veteran Dave Hansen and brought together veterans of Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan. Read more about this pioneering trip on page 8.

In February, PeaceTrees and the Vietnamese Friendship Association held our first World Café event, where Vietnamese community members and friends of PeaceTrees came together to discuss our shared connections with Vietnam and Vietnamese culture. At the event, guests enjoyed listening to author Angie Chau read from her book of short stories, *Quiet as They Come*.

In March, PeaceTrees bid goodbye to Blair Burroughs, Executive Director since 2009. Our leadership transition brought in the skillful hand of Michael Auch as Interim Executive Director. From the start, Michael was a great fit; PeaceTrees was thrilled when he accepted the permanent Executive Director position. Under Michael's leadership, PeaceTrees continued to blossom throughout 2012.

PeaceTrees' central work of landmine and unexploded ordnance (UXO) clearance also continued successfully in 2012. In April, Western Australia Policy gave 19 demining aprons and two trauma kits to our Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) teams. Through Danner Boots in Portland, Oregon, our teams also received new demining boots in June. Modern equipment is vital to the safety and success of our demining teams. Thank you to both of these generous donors!

In June, PeaceTrees partnered with University of Washington Professor Christoph Giebel in hosting 20 American students in Quang Tri Province. While studying the remnants of war in Vietnam, the students helped tile floors for families in need and plant trees on cleared land.

Another remarkable educator, Emily Fissel of Edmonds Community College, worked throughout 2012 fundraising for PeaceTrees' seventh school, the Hope Project Kindergarten. Emily's community raised over \$35,000! On September 5, Emily visited the Kindergarten for the first day of school. For more about Emily's fundraising efforts turn to page 7.

Also in September, MBA students from Seattle University's Albers School of Business and Economics visited PeaceTrees' programs in Vietnam to discover the economic and humanitarian impacts of war there. The team planted trees and helped lay a cement slab for a family impacted by ordnance, which will allow the family to dry cassava, a primary source of income.

As the year closed, we celebrated our 17th Annual Luncheon, and brought in over \$150,000 to continue building a future of peace in Quang Tri Province. The ongoing support of our sponsors, Fran's Chocolates and Sahale Snacks, and the generosity of many donors made this possible. The good work of healing the land, building community, and planting futures continues! Thank you to all those who made this possible!

Key Accomplishments in 2012

10,102 pieces of UXO removed and destroyed.

38.6 acres of land cleared of ordnance.

958 families benefited from UXO clearance and removal.

200 scholarships were provided to students.

8 mine survivors provided medical and economic assistance.

2 new kindergartens were completed.

7,808 people visited PeaceTrees' **11** libraries.

1,025 new library cards were issued.

50 new microcredit loans were awarded to women.

63 travelers participated in **5** Citizen Diplomacy Trips.

1160 indigenous trees planted.



FundRAISING Hope



In 2010, Emily Fissel, a longtime volunteer with PeaceTrees, returned home from a Citizen Diplomacy trip to Vietnam inspired to contribute to PeaceTrees efforts in a new way: by leading the fundraising efforts for PeaceTrees' seventh kindergarten, the Hope Project Kindergarten. Emily, a Spanish and English as a Second Language (ESL) teacher at Edmonds Community College, saw the vital role that PeaceTrees plays in providing educational access to Vietnam's ethnic minority communities. She wanted to provide more children in the Quang Tri region with the opportunity to get a head start by having access to local early education and language development.

One of the primary functions of the Hope Project Kindergarten and all PeaceTrees' Kindergarten projects, is that they enable children to gain Vietnamese language skills. The Bru Van Kieu and Paco ethnic minority communities that live in the Hope Project Kindergarten's region have their own beautiful dialects; most of the children do not speak Vietnamese, the official language used in schools. When these children start school, they quickly fall behind because of the language differences. This barrier has devastating effects on the children's ability to succeed in school, which in turn, can impact their long-term stability.

As a language teacher, Emily understood the diverse ways language barriers can impact student outcomes. By raising the funds to build the Hope Project Kindergarten, Emily has helped to ensure that students in the Quang Tri region enter grade school ready to learn.

Veterans in Action

Healing the wounds of war takes on personal meaning for each of us. In February of 2012, PeaceTrees Vietnam facilitated a pioneering Citizen Diplomacy trip in partnership with eleven veterans, friends and family, to explore what these powerful words can mean for veterans.

The trip was initially imagined by Dave Hansen, a veteran who served in Vietnam. In partnership with PeaceTrees, Dave brought together a diverse group of veterans that served in Vietnam, Iraq, and Afghanistan. The unique trip provided opportunities for intergenerational conversation about the experience of war, and what positive responses to conflict can look like.

The group spent two weeks visiting PeaceTrees schools and libraries, volunteering, planting trees with Vietnamese veterans, and meeting with US government officials. Dave's son Luke Hansen, a professional video producer, also documented the trip with photographer Michael Fragale. At our 17th Anniversary Luncheon Luke and Michael shared the story of their trip with the broader PeaceTrees community.



Partners and Grants



U.S. Partners

Marshall Legacy Institute
United States Department of State – Office of
Weapons Removal & Abatement
Vietnamese Friendship Association
Sahale Snacks
Fran’s Chocolates

Vietnam Partners

The Vietnam Union of Friendship Organizations
The Vietnam-USA Society
People’s Aid Coordinating Committee
The Vietnam Women’s Union
People’s Committee of Quang Tri Province
Foreign Relations Department of Quang Tri Province
The Vietnam Women’s Union of Quang Tri Province
People’s Committee Dong Ha Town

Grants & Awards

Washington Women’s Foundation
Vietnam Veteran’s Memorial Fund
Seattle International Foundation
Grace Episcopal Church
Peg & Rick Young Foundation
The Peach Foundation
The Cleveland Foundation



Our Donors

\$10,000 - \$100,000+

Eve & Ellsworth Alvord • The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation • Grace Episcopal Church • Alyson McGregor • Microsoft
• The Seattle Foundation • Robert Stokes • U.S. Department of State - Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement

\$5,000+

Karyl & Elias Alvord • Linda & Mac Cheever • Fran's Chocolates • David & Carol Hansen • Sahale Snacks Inc. •
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\$2,500+

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and Phong Huynh • Roger J. Jusseaume • Neil Leonard • Danielle Tiedt • Lisa Tiedt • Dawn Trudeau

\$1,000+

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Seattle • Ming Chuan (Angie) Wong • Trinh Thi Hong Van • Joe and Kathleen Yencich

PeaceTrees Vietnam is grateful to our supporters whose remarkable contributions have allowed us to continue to renew relationships with the people of Vietnam and to promote a safe, healthy future for its families and children. We are extremely thankful for the outstanding support from longtime friends and new donors. We offer our heartfelt thanks to the thousands of supporters we do not have space to list, including the many who gave of their valuable time.

Financial Snapshot Year End 2012

Statement of Activities for Year Ending December 31, 2012

Changes in Unrestricted Net Assets

Revenue and Support

Government grants	504,067
Contributions	66,373
Foundation grants	105,510
Special events	143,835
Citizen Diplomacy	64,859
Interest income	279
In-kind donations	<u>1,921</u>
	966,430
Net assets released from restrictions	<u>71,702</u>
Total Revenues, Public and Other Support	958,546

Expenses

Program services	780,193
Management and General	106,193
Fundraising	<u>45,251</u>
Total Expenses	<u>931,637</u>
Change in Unrestricted Net Assets	<u>26,909</u>

Changes in Temporarily Restricted Net Assets

Net assets released from restrictions	<u>(71,702)</u>
Change in Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	<u>36,772</u>

Change in Net Assets

	63,681
Net assets as of 1/1/11	<u>295,480</u>
Net assets as of 12/31/11	<u>\$359,161</u>

Financial Snapshot Year End 2012

Statement of Financial Position as of December 31, 2012

<u>ASSETS</u>	
CURRENT ASSETS	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$292,678
Receivables:	
Grants and contracts receivable	14,989
Promises to give	8,720
Prepaid expenses	<u>739</u>
Total current assets	\$317,126
Micro loan portfolio	<u>\$23,906</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$380,218</u>
<u>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</u>	
Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	\$13,612
Credit Cards Payable	123
Accrued Payroll, Taxes & Benefits	4,872
Citizen Diplomacy Funds Held	2,450
Other Deferred Revenue	
Loan Payable	<u></u>
Total liabilities	21,057
NET ASSETS	
Unrestricted	294,338
Temporarily restricted	<u>64,823</u>
Total net assets	<u>359,161</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	<u>\$380,218</u>



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