



March 2023 Newsletter

Lucky Money for PeaceTrees Kindergarteners

In February and March, PeaceTrees visited kindergartens in Quảng Trị and Quảng Bình province to deliver red envelopes to students in honor of Tết, the Vietnamese Lunar New Year! These red envelopes are a tradition during the Lunar New Year and contain 'lucky money.' We hope you enjoy some photos from these joyous visits below!



Students at the Sunflower Kindergarten in Khe Sanh Village, Quảng Trị Province. The Sunflower Kindergarten was constructed by PeaceTrees in 2014.

Students at the Ruong Kindergarten opening their lucky envelopes. The Ruong Kindergarten is in Ruong Village, Quảng Trị Province and nearly 70 students attend the school.



A pair of students at the Ban Ke Kindergarten located in Quảng Bình Province showing off their lucky envelopes! The Ban Ke Kindergarten was completed in 2012 and 30 students are now attending school there.



In-Country Director, Ha Pham, delivering lucky envelopes to students at the Arthur Bustamante Kindergarten in Tả Lềng village, Quảng Trị Province.

Updates from Vietnam

PeaceTrees Vietnam and the Vietnam National Mine Action Center

On the morning of March 14 in Hanoi, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between PeaceTrees Vietnam and the Vietnam National Mine Action Center (VNMAC)! This continued partnership will help PeaceTrees expand our mine action programs, implement more explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) activities, collaborate to train more Explosive Ordnance Disposal technicians, and apply new technologies to mine clearance. PeaceTrees is honored to have VNMAC's support and we look forward to working together to create a brighter future in Vietnam.



PeaceTrees In-Country Director, Ha Pham, with official from VNMAC and the signed MOU- Hanoi



Members of PeaceTrees Quảng Trị and Quảng Bình program staff pictured with members of VNMAC after the MOU signing- Hanoi

Burning Rocket Safely Destroyed near Quan Hau Market

While searching for oysters in the Nhat Le river, a fisherman encountered a long metal object and removed it from the water. After placing the object near the Quan Hau Market nearby, it began producing white smoke, that is when members of the Quan Hau Town People's Committee called the Quảng Bình mine action hotline. PeaceTrees EOD technicians arrived shortly after, and identified the object as a White Phosphorous MK 67 rocket. After safely stopping the release of this toxic gas, the teams were able to move the rocket 2 km away from the market for a controlled detonation where the rocket was destroyed immediately. PeaceTrees is grateful for the local community in Quan Hau who knew exactly what to do upon realizing this object was an item of explosive ordnance!



The MK 67 rocket leaking toxic White Phosphorous gas after being removed from the river.



PeaceTrees EOD technician safely preparing the rocket for a controlled detonation.

March Citizen Diplomacy Trip

In March, PeaceTrees welcomed two groups of Citizen Diplomats to Vietnam! This trip included travelers who worked together to help fund the construction of the Ooc Kindergarten, PeaceTrees' second kindergarten project in Quảng Bình Province. On this trip, Citizen Diplomats got to attend the Ooc Kindergarten Dedication Ceremony, a community celebration with performances by local teachers and students, gifts for the students and families, and tree planting in the garden surrounding the school. Travelers also got to visit the Temple of Literature and eat Bún chả in Hanoi, see our demining teams at work in Quảng Trị and Quảng Bình, see the beautiful Paradise Cave, and visit the Danaan Parry

Landmine Education Center in Dong Ha. If you are interested in learning more about traveling with PeaceTrees, we invite you to email us at info@peacetreesvietnam.org.



An Ooc Kindergarten supporter cutting the ribbon with teachers and community members at the Ooc Kindergarten Dedication Ceremony - Quảng Bình Province



Citizen Diplomats, teachers, PeaceTrees staff, and local community leaders at the Ooc Kindergarten Dedication Ceremony- Quảng Bình Province



Citizen Diplomats visiting PeaceTrees' banana project, which was created in partnership with the Quảng Trị Province Women's Union in Ta Long Commune- Quảng Trị Province



PeaceTrees Board Member and trip participant, Daniel Nguyen, participating in a demonstration with Quảng Trị EOD technicians- Quảng Trị Province



Citizen diplomats delivering gifts to the students of the Ooc Village Kindergarten- Quảng Bình Province



Citizen diplomats planting more banana trees alongside residents in Ta Long Commune- Quảng Trị Province

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.



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