



Dear Friends,

Together, for the past 25 years, we have helped children and families break the cycle of poverty, and have provided immediate assistance to communities living in daily danger because of unexploded bombs and mines that remain from the Vietnam war.

PeaceTrees' investment in education is based on the philosophy that to create lasting positive transformation in post-conflict communities, investments must be made in partnerships, safe land (free from unexploded bombs and mines), education and infrastructure.

This type of holistic approach to development, and the understanding that no one issue can be tackled on its own, has led to our many successful PeaceTrees partnerships and projects.

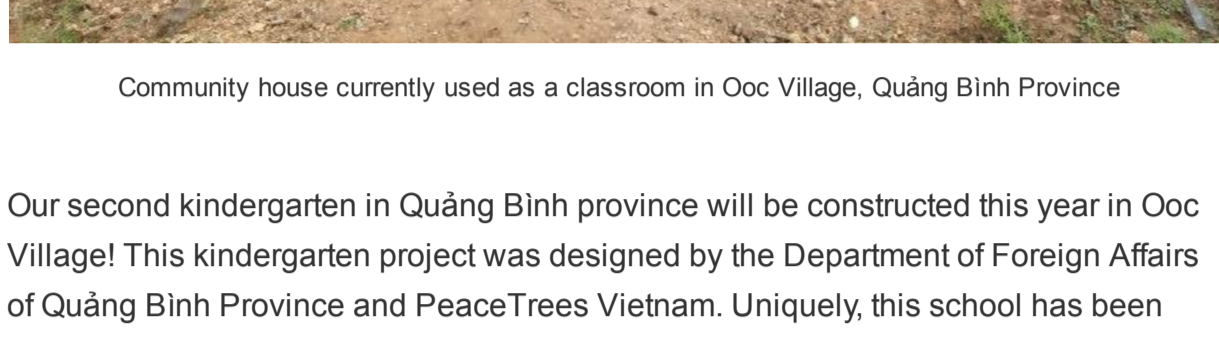
Our kindergarten program gives ethnic minority students a head start through stable early childhood education which improves their chances of success in primary school. Classes are taught in Vietnamese so that the children are linguistically prepared for primary and secondary school and are familiar with formal classroom instruction. This is particularly important in ethnic minority communities where children often speak languages other than Vietnamese at home and therefore have few opportunities to pursue education in public schools where lessons are taught in Vietnamese. We also provide kindergarteners with a hot nutritious lunch each day, and a safe place to play, free from dangerous UXO.

Recently, we engaged our partners in Vietnam to evaluate our kindergarten program. This evaluation found that **PeaceTrees kindergarteners experience less malnutrition than other kindergarteners, PeaceTrees kindergarteners attend school more regularly, and their level of nutrition increases over the course of the school year.**

Our first kindergarten, the Friendship Village Kindergarten, was built in 2002 in Dong Ha City, Quảng Trị Province. Since then 15 additional kindergartens have been built, one in Quảng Bình and the rest in Quảng Trị.

This year we are excited to announce the construction of an additional three kindergartens that will educate 118 children in the 2020/21 school year. You can read more about each school below!

Ooc Village Kindergarten - Expanding Education in Quảng Bình



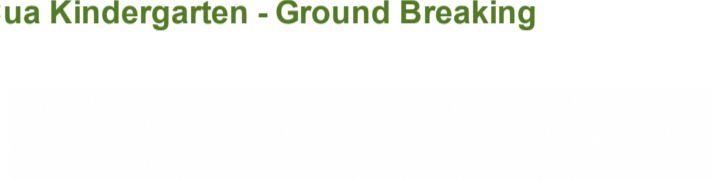
Community house currently used as a classroom in Ooc Village, Quảng Bình Province

Our second kindergarten in Quảng Bình province will be constructed this year in Ooc Village! This kindergarten project was designed by the Department of Foreign Affairs of Quảng Bình Province and PeaceTrees Vietnam. Uniquely, this school has been funded entirely by the tremendous fundraising efforts of Citizen Diplomats who traveled to Vietnam together in March 2019. In total 117 individual donors contributed to this project, and together they are making this school a reality for the children of Ooc Village!

Ooc Village is in Dan Hoa Commune, Minh Hoa District, in Quảng Bình Province. It is very close to the border of Laos and is approximately a three-hour drive from the city of Dong Hoi, via the Ho Chi Minh highway. Ooc village has 64 households with a total population of 278 people. All of the residents are ethnic minorities, primarily of the Bru-Van Kieu and May ethnicities. 95.3% of the residents are classified as poor by the government. Because of limited land resources and lack of education, the main income for most of the families in Ooc is from government social welfare assistance and hired labor.

Ooc Village currently has 29 children, ages 3-5, that attend school in an old community house. These children do not have access to an adequate classroom, equipment for early childhood education, a playground, or the opportunity to learn the Vietnamese language (not their primary language). Because there is no kitchen, toilet, or potable water source on-site, the children must go home for lunch. Many do not return in the afternoon, especially during the rainy season.

There will be 27 children attending the new kindergarten during the 2020/21 school year! The two 5-year-olds now attending will "graduate" to the elementary school in the village.



Site for new kindergarten in Ooc Village next to the existing primary school



Ooc Village is in Dan Hoa Commune, Minh Hoa District, in Quảng Bình Province

Cua Kindergarten - Ground Breaking

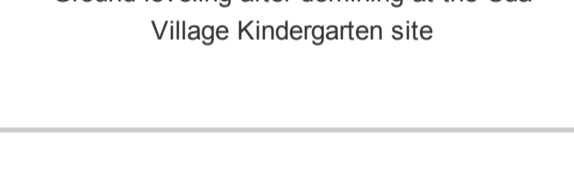


Ground breaking ceremony for the kindergarten with Cua Village community members, local authorities, the Quảng Trị Women's Union and PeaceTrees staff - May 2020

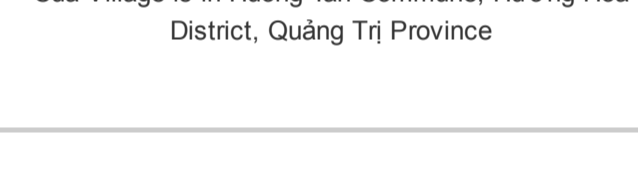
The Women's Union of Quảng Trị Province, and PeaceTrees Vietnam, have jointly developed a proposal for a two-room kindergarten to be built in Cua Village of Quảng Trị Province. Cua village is comprised of 101 households, 71% of whom identify as ethnic minority. Nearly half of households are officially classified as poor by the government. Cua Village is located in Hương Tân, a disadvantaged commune within Hương Hóa district. The economy is predominantly agricultural (mostly subsistence farming) and the infrastructure system is weak.

Cua village has 67 kindergarten-age children. 35 of them attend kindergarten in the village's current degraded classroom that is no longer safe or adequate for use. The remaining 32 children have not received any kindergarten education. The new PeaceTrees two room classroom will accommodate all of the village's kindergarten-age children. One of the classrooms will be for children age 3-4 and the other classroom will be for 5-year-old children.

We are so grateful to our sponsors of this project, Jeff Shumway, Rotary District 5030 and Seattle Area Rotary Clubs. We would like to extend a special thank you to Jeff and to the Lake Forest Park Rotary Club for being instrumental in making this project possible!



Ground leveling after deming at the Cua Village Kindergarten site



Cua Village is in Hương Tân Commune, Hương Hóa District, in Quảng Trị Province

Prin Thanh Kindergarten - Construction Progress



Prin Thanh Kindergarten construction in progress - May 2020

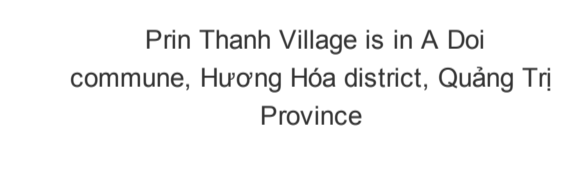
Thanks to the support of a matching grant that we received through One Day's Wages and the dedication and generosity of many donors, we are excited to announce that construction of the Prin Thanh Kindergarten is well underway. The school is scheduled to open for the 2020/21 school year!

This expansion to the existing kindergarten in Prin Thanh Village was jointly designed by the Women's Union of Quảng Trị Province and PeaceTrees Vietnam. The project will consist of constructing a new classroom adjacent to the existing kindergarten in Prin Thanh Village. Prin Thanh village is in A Doi commune, Hương Hóa district, Quảng Trị Province. Within Prin Thanh Village, 52% of households are classified as poor by the Vietnamese government. Only 36 of the 60 kindergarten-age children are currently able to attend kindergarten in the village. The remaining children have to travel 2km to study at the next closest school. Because of this distance, these children attend school very infrequently.

The overall goal of the project is to improve the lives of disadvantaged children and families in Prin Thanh Village. Children will benefit from better health through clean water and nutritious food. They will receive a head start through early education intended to improve their chances of success in primary school. Parents will also benefit from knowing their children are in a safe environment, cleared of unexploded bombs and mines, and will be better able to focus on the economic advancement of their families and community!



Construction of the Prin Thanh Village Kindergarten - May 2020



Prin Thanh Village is in A Doi commune, Hương Hóa district, in Quảng Trị Province



Kindergarteners at Dash Friendship Village in Cooc Village using the portable washing stations - May 2020

COVID-19 Update in Kindergartens -

This month, PeaceTrees team members delivered protective equipment and sanitation supplies to all 16 PeaceTrees kindergartens in order to ensure safety and hygiene as kindergarteners return to a normal school schedule.

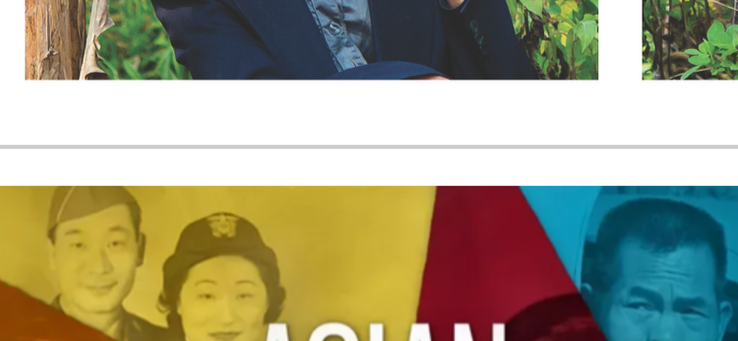
The supplies included reusable cloth face masks for both children and teachers, mobile sinks, hand soap, hand sanitizer and digital thermometers.

The safety and health of the kindergarteners, teachers, and their families and communities is our priority. We are doing what we can to continue to provide a safe place for children to learn and play in the midst of this global crisis.

What We're Excited About:



SAVE THE DATE
25 YEARS
OF SAFE LAND & SUCCESSFUL COMMUNITIES
MONDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2020



PBS' Asian Americans Film Series

Asian Americans is a five-hour PBS film series that will chronicle the contributions, and challenges of Asian Americans, the fastest-growing ethnic group in America. Personal histories and new academic research will cast a

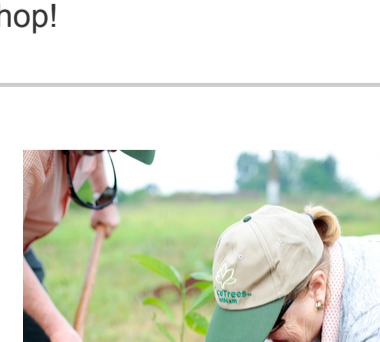
fresh lens on U.S. history and the role Asian Americans have played in it.

Looking for a creative way to supporting PeaceTrees Vietnam from home?



Consider shopping with AmazonSmile and setting PeaceTrees as your beneficiary. AmazonSmile is a program that donates 0.5% of your eligible purchases on Amazon to a charity of your choice. All you need

to do is start your shopping at smile.amazon.com. The donation will be made at no extra cost to you and you will be contributing to PeaceTrees Vietnam's lifesaving work while you shop!

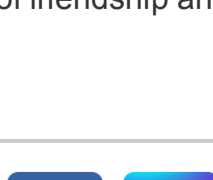


Calling all previous Citizen Diplomats: Save the date July 10-12th! Virtual Reunion Weekend!

This July 11th marks two important anniversaries – the 25th anniversary of normalization of diplomatic relations between the US and Vietnam, and the 25th anniversary of PeaceTrees Vietnam. We could not think of a more appropriate way of honoring this date than by having a virtual Citizen Diplomacy Reunion.

Whether you were on that very first trip in 1996, or our most recent trip in January 2020, we hope that you will save the date and plan to join us virtually as we honor 25 years of friendship and diplomacy building!

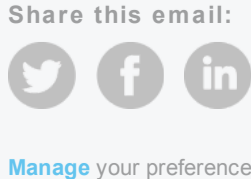
[Please RSVP for the event here!](#)



Contribute to PeaceTrees' work!

For more information contact us at 206-441-6136 or info@peacetreesvietnam.org

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