



## July 2022 Newsletter

### Updates from Vietnam

#### Cup Kindergarten Groundbreaking

On July 5, PeaceTrees staff and in-country partners broke ground on a new kindergarten in Cup village! This kindergarten will replace an existing school that is no longer suitable for the growing number of school-aged children living in the village. Prior to starting construction, PeaceTrees EOD teams safely removed and destroyed a 60mm mortar shell from the site. Fundraising efforts for this project were led by members of the Aviation Safety and Security program at USC. We are so grateful to the project supporters and look forward to keeping everyone updated as construction progresses!



PeaceTrees Vietnam in-country staff and partners at the groundbreaking ceremony- Quảng Trị Province

A PeaceTrees EOD technician conducting clearance at the Cup Kindergarten site- Quảng Trị Province

#### Progress on the CuTy Kindergarten

Since our last update, the foundation, walls, and ceilings have been completed at the CuTy Kindergarten. Construction is expected to wrap this August, just in time to welcome students to their new school in September!



Construction workers at the CuTy kindergarten- Quảng Trị Province

An inside look at the newly completed ceilings at the CuTy kindergarten- Quảng Trị Province

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### Join PeaceTrees for a Citizen Diplomacy Trip This September

There is still space available to join our September Citizen Diplomacy trip led by PeaceTrees' senior advisor and experienced trip leader, Bob Stokes. Travelers will visit Hanoi, Hue, Quảng Trị, and other locations depending on traveler interest. Importantly, travelers will get the opportunity to further engage with PeaceTrees' work in central Vietnam. **If you want to learn more and are interested in traveling this September, email Carlie Stowe at [carlie@peacetreesvietnam.org](mailto:carlie@peacetreesvietnam.org).**



Citizen Diplomats visiting a PeaceTrees kindergarten- Quảng Trị Province

Citizen Diplomats with PeaceTrees In-Country Director, Ha Pham, at the Danaan Parry Landmine Education Center- Quảng Trị Province

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### PeaceTrees Events

**Join Us at the Bainbridge Island Museum of Art on August 11th**



We hope that you will join us on for an *in-person* event at the Bainbridge Island Museum of Art (BIMA) on **Thursday, August 11th from 7-8pm**. This event is free and open to the public but registration is required and space is limited. **We invite you to visit BIMA's website to register and learn more.** For guests joining from Seattle via ferry, the museum is less than a half mile from the ferry dock, so consider walking on the ferry for an easier trip to the island!

### Save the Date: Monday, October 24th

We invite you to mark your calendars and join us *virtually* on **Monday, October 24th** to celebrate 27 years of building collaboration, partnership, and trust in Vietnam! More information, including an exciting announcement about our keynote speaker and event registration details, will be available throughout the summer!



### On to the Senate!

Thanks to your advocacy, the House included nearly \$265 million for global demining programs in their draft budget for the year. This represents a \$10 million increase from last year.

**Let's keep this momentum going and ask the Senate to take the next step towards funding lifesaving demining programs by supporting a total of \$290 million for global demining!**

**Take action now!**

### A PeaceTrees Vietnam Travelogue

In April, PeaceTrees welcomed our first in-country visitor in nearly two years! Jonathan Lancaster visited Vietnam from New Jersey to conduct research on how

the Vietnam-American War is taught in Vietnamese schools. During his trip, Jonathan joined our in-country team to learn more about how the legacy of war continues to impact communities today. Jonathan reflected on his experience, and wrote a short travelogue that we hope might inspire you to travel to Vietnam on a Citizen Diplomacy trip:

*"I had the privilege of seeing PeaceTrees Vietnam in action during my recent trip to Vietnam in late April 2022. I had requested to see their work first-hand in Quảng Trị province - the heaviest bombed province in Vietnam during the Vietnam War - as part of my ongoing research regarding the remembrance and education of the Vietnam War in Vietnam schools on behalf of the United States Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Though I was in Vietnam for four months, this experience was the highlight of my entire trip..."*

*I was incredibly impressed by the professionalism, effectiveness, and impact that PeaceTrees demonstrated. PeaceTrees staff took me directly to their field site, where I witnessed dozens of professionals sweeping for unexploded ordnance (UXOs). Their staff took the time to educate me on the process and strategy of both the immediate fieldwork and the larger vision for PeaceTrees. Through this process, I observed the size and scope of the lingering UXO issue, and the commitment of PeaceTrees to remedy that problem.*

*Moreover, PeaceTrees allowed me to observe a PeaceTrees-sponsored school in the area, where I met with students and faculty. As a high school social studies teacher myself, I was incredibly grateful to have the opportunity to meet motivated teachers and to see PeaceTrees' work outside of their UXO cleanup capacity.*

*Lastly, PeaceTrees provided me with the opportunity to speak to a survivor of an UXO incident. Speaking to him about his story was incredibly moving, and highlighted the continuing need for urgent UXO action through organizations like PeaceTrees.*

*Seeing PeaceTrees' work has inspired me to become involved in this cause, and I strongly urge anyone interested in their work or the legacies of war to see PeaceTrees in action."*



Jonathan with two PeaceTrees EOD technicians observing clearance work- Quảng Trị Province



Jonathan visiting the Cua Village Kindergarten- Quảng Trị Province

## Honoring 27 Years of Normalized Diplomatic Relations Between the U.S. and Vietnam This July

On July 11th, 1995 the U.S. and Vietnam normalized diplomatic relations and the story of PeaceTrees Vietnam began. For the past 27 years, we have worked alongside Vietnamese partners and friends to support communities whose lives and livelihoods continue to be impacted by the legacy of war. [We invite you to read this article by PeaceTrees Project Manager, Carlie Stowe, that discusses the role that NGOs like PeaceTrees play in trust building and continued collaboration after war.](#)

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### 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.



### Your monthly reminder to make PeaceTrees your Amazon Smile beneficiary!

Amazon Smile 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 designate PeaceTrees and start your shopping!

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