



May 2024 Newsletter

PeaceTrees Honors Memorial Day



This Memorial Day, PeaceTrees Vietnam takes a moment to remember and honor the brave men and women of the U.S. Armed Forces who have served and sacrificed. Their courage and dedication are deeply appreciated, and we recognize the profound impact their service has had on the world. As an organization committed to addressing the legacy of war, we strive to transform former battlefields into safe and thriving communities, honoring the memory of those who have given so much. Join us in paying tribute to these heroes and reflecting on their contributions to peace and freedom.

Visit [our website](#) to read the stories of Veterans and Gold Star Families who serve as ongoing sources of inspiration to our mission.

Updates from Vietnam

Khe Đá Village Ordnance Removal by PeaceTrees

Recently, PeaceTrees Vietnam responded to a report regarding the discovery of a large bomb in Khe Đá village in Hướng Hóa district. The bomb, a Mark 82, was buried 7 meters deep and was discovered during excavation of the area for construction of a wind power project. A PeaceTrees Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) team secured the area and alerted construction workers and residents to evacuate before safely transporting the bomb, which weighed 500 pounds, to a secure location for controlled detonation. Unexploded ordnances (UXO) are often found in gardens, agricultural fields, and other areas where they pose a significant threat to human life. Our efforts to clear these dangers are crucial in ensuring the safety and well-being of local communities.



PeaceTrees Vietnam's technicians assessing a bomb found in Quảng Trị province



A 500 pound bomb being removed to a safe location for controlled detonation in Quảng Trị province

Explosive Ordnance Risk Education in Quảng Bình

This spring, PeaceTrees Vietnam collaborated with three secondary schools in Bố Trạch district, Quảng Bình province, to organize explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) events. Over 1,100 students and teachers from Phú Trạch, Hải Phú, and Trung Trạch Secondary Schools participated in the events, which raised awareness about UXO dangers and taught students how to prevent accidents.

Teacher Dương Hồng Nghĩa highlighted the program's practicality, sharing that she had plans to integrate UXO education into her weekly sessions. Additionally, PeaceTrees promoted environmental protection by encouraging proper trash disposal and donating trash bins to the schools.



A student participates in a PeaceTrees explosive ordnance risk education event in Quảng Bình province



PeaceTrees educators pose with trash bins displaying information for bomb safety and reporting in Quảng Bình province

Sign Up for the September 2024 Citizen Diplomacy Trip!



Registration is open now for PeaceTrees Vietnam's Autumn 2024 Citizen Diplomacy Trip from **September 20 to October 4!** This unique travel experience is an incredible way to experience Vietnam by:

- Engaging in demining and community development
- Meeting U.S. Embassy staff and learning about diplomatic priorities
- Visiting Hanoi, Ninh Bình, Quảng Bình, Quảng Trị Province, Nha Trang, and Saigon
- Immersion in Vietnamese culture and history

This trip will have a special culinary focus thanks to Chef Thoa Nguyen who will lead the trip along with Kimberly Hoàng, PeaceTrees Citizen Diplomacy Manager. Citizen Diplomacy is a special opportunity to foster mutual understanding and strengthens ties between Vietnam and the U.S.

Don't miss out! Learn more about traveling with PeaceTrees, our trip leaders and apply for Autumn 2024 [HERE](#).

Thank You for Supporting Scholarships!



THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Your donations are helping Vietnamese students receive an education



GiveBIG 2024, a state-wide giving event, was this May 7th and 8th. Thanks to your incredible support, we surpassed our GiveBIG fundraising goal! Together, we rallied and raised a total of \$10,300 for our scholarship program. This achievement not only highlights the power of collective action but also reaffirms our dedication to making a meaningful impact in the lives of children and families in Vietnam. With your support, we are not only providing educational opportunities but also fostering hope and building a brighter future for generations to come.

As we reflect on this success, we extend our heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you who donated, shared our message, and stood with us during GiveBIG 2024. Your generosity is a testament to the strength of our community and the difference we can make when we come together for a common cause.

What We're...

Learning About: ["Forgotten Faces: Women's Service in the U.S.-Vietnam War Era" on WCTV](#)

Discover the untold stories of three courageous women who served in the U.S. Navy during the U.S.-Vietnam War era. Despite facing challenges and restrictions, these trailblazers share their experiences and reflect on their journey toward recognition. Join them on their emotional journey of honor and remembrance and learn more about their remarkable stories [here](#).



Reading: ["Transforming Scraps into Masterpieces: Vun Art's Journey" via Saigoneer](#)

Step into the world of Vun Art, where fabric scraps find new life as intricate silk artworks crafted by artisans with disabilities. Follow the inspiring story of how founder Lê Việt Cường turned a dream into reality, providing meaningful employment and creative expression for individuals facing unique challenges. Discover the resilience, dedication, and artistry behind each masterpiece. Read this extended article about Vun Art's transformative work [here](#).

Applauding: [Milestone Achievement: Vietnam Airlines Takes Flight with Sustainable Aviation Fuel](#)

Witness history as Vietnam Airlines becomes the first airline in Vietnam to utilize sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) for commercial passenger flights. Partnering with Neste, a leader in SAF production, Vietnam Airlines refueled an Airbus A321 with blended SAF at Changi Airport in Singapore. This groundbreaking step underscores Vietnam Airlines' commitment to sustainability and aligns with global efforts to reduce aviation emissions. Learn more about this milestone in sustainable air travel [here](#).



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