



## August 2023 Newsletter

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### Save the Date for 28th Anniversary Luncheon



**SAVE THE DATE**  
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2023

PeaceTrees is thrilled to share that our 28th Anniversary Luncheon will be an in-person event at the Four Seasons Hotel in Seattle. Mark your calendars for Thursday, November 9th, 2023, as we gather to hear updates and raise funds for our life-saving work. We look forward to reconnecting and honoring 28 years of peace and partnership. Registration and formal invitation to follow!

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### Updates from Vietnam

#### 500 lb. Bomb Removed in Quảng Bình Province

On August 8, our dedicated Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) team successfully carried out an EOD spot task, making the area safer for all.

In the village of Tiên Tiến, Quảng Châu commune, Quảng Trạch district, Quảng Bình province, while using an excavator, the operator Mr. Nguyễn Văn Xuân encountered a suspected bomb. Mr. Xuan reported the discovery to the commune-level military command, who immediately halted all construction and established a safety zone.

A PeaceTrees team was called to the site and carefully excavated the area to remove the bomb. Our experienced technical staff then assessed the situation and determined that the 500-pound MK82 GPLD bomb was stable enough to be safely removed from the ground. PeaceTrees is grateful for community members, like Mr. Xuan, who alert official authorities when they encounter a bomb or mine.



PeaceTrees EOD technicians receive direction from a team leader in Quảng Bình Province



PeaceTrees EOD technicians take measurements of the bomb found buried in Quảng Bình Province

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**PeaceTrees 2022 Annual Report Published**

As we look back on the year 2022, gratitude fills our hearts for your friendship and support. As our collective relationship with COVID-19 changed, we were able to reunite our dedicated teams in both the United States and Vietnam. Our Citizen Diplomacy Program resumed its important impact, and the happy sounds of students returning to school resonated once again.

In the face of the trials that the past two years have presented, PeaceTrees still grew in every part of what we do. Today, we are thrilled to present our 2022 Annual Report to you – our friends and partners in the pursuit of peace. We invite you to read and reflect on the many ways in which your support has enabled PeaceTrees Vietnam to create a lasting impact throughout 2022. View our annual report by clicking [here](#).



2022 was a year full of miracles, projects, and renewed commitment to peace and partnership in Vietnam. PeaceTrees expanded its action programs in both Quang Tri and Quang Binh provinces, implemented post-clearance development projects to support environmental resilience, and welcomed students to a new workshop just in time for the new school year. In September, our Seattle-based staff traveled to Vietnam and joyfully reunited with in-country colleagues and organizational partners after three years apart, kicking off the return of PeaceTrees' Citizen Diplomacy Program.

In October, we celebrated our 27th Anniversary with supporters and friends. Our keynote speaker, Gabe Bailey, urged everyone to do close conversations about the legacy of war and shared, "For me, a landmine victim's story becomes a survivor when they are given the opportunity to rebuild their life. Great profound words were echoed through our work as we closed the year by delivering 1,031 scholarships to new medical students. After 27 years, PeaceTrees' vision remains a Vietnam no longer crisscrossed of landmines' explosive ordnance and communities fully supported in their goals for safety, education, and economic stability."

PeaceTrees U.S. and Vietnam staff at a meeting in Hanoi, Vietnam at the end of Sept. 2022

A workshop moment with Gabe Bailey at an event in Quang Binh, Vietnam, 2022

PeaceTrees Vietnam's Outreach Director, Gabe Bailey, with a team of medical students, Oct. 2022

## Support Mine Action in Southeast Asia!

This week, PeaceTrees Vietnam is partnering with our colleagues in mine action to raise awareness about the ongoing legacy of war across Southeast Asia to ensure that the U.S. continues to support the elimination of lethal hazards from this region. Our goal is to send 6,000 letters to Congress this week, urging representatives to support demining programs. It's not too late to take a small action at home that will make a world of difference!

U.S. Voters - [We invite you to take 30 seconds to sign this pre-drafted letter to your congressional representatives to let them know where you stand on this issue.](#)



## What We're...

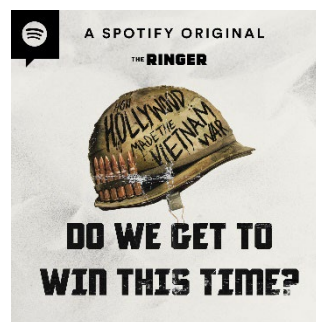
### Reading: ["Starbucks Vietnam: Why the US chain cannot crack a coffee-loving nation" at BBC News](#)

Discover how Starbucks has fared in Vietnam over the past decade. Despite the nation's love for coffee, Starbucks holds just a 2% market share, facing challenges like local preferences, high pricing, and competition. Dive into the article to understand why traditional Vietnamese coffee seems to win hearts over the global brand, learn insights on taste preferences, local favorites, pricing, and more. This is a fascinating look at how Starbucks navigates a coffee-rich culture.



**Listening to: ["Do We Get to Win This Time?" podcast, Episode Six "I Am Reality"](#)**

'Do We Get to Win This Time?' is a podcast delving into the profound impact of Vietnam movies on our perceptions of the U.S.-Vietnam War. In the sixth episode, host Brian Raftery engages in a conversation with Oliver Stone, discussing the creation of his iconic 1986 U.S.-Vietnam War film, 'Platoon.' Follow the link above to read an excerpt from the episode and learn more about this podcast exploring how the U.S.-Vietnam War has been portrayed by Hollywood.



**Watching: ["Spanish tourist's Cu Chi Tunnels video goes viral"](#)**

Spanish traveler Joe Hattab's TikTok video captures his visit to Vietnam's historic Cu Chi tunnels – the underground stronghold of Vietnamese soldiers during the U.S.-Vietnam War. With 40 million views and counting, it's a digital sensation.



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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.

