



PeaceTrees™  
VietNam



# 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

# Leadership Reflections

## From Our Executive & In-Country Directors

Dear Friends of PeaceTrees Vietnam,

As we reflect on the past year, we want to express our immense gratitude for the remarkable progress and impact that PeaceTrees Vietnam has made in central Vietnam. Here are just a few of the accomplishments we are excited about:

- We expanded our work in both Quảng Trị and Quảng Bình Provinces. Dedicated PeaceTrees Vietnam explosive ordnance disposal technicians cleared more than 5,000 unexploded bombs and mines from the land, benefiting 45,000 people.
- PeaceTrees' 23rd kindergarten, Thanh Central Kindergarten in Hướng Hóa District, Quảng Trị Province, opened. The school will serve 62 kindergarteners and their teachers this year. In the 2023-2024 school year alone, over 450 kindergarteners were enrolled in our schools, and more than 300 elementary, high school, and post-secondary students received scholarships.
- From indigenous banana plantations to pig farming, participants received the necessary training and resources to start new ventures. Our Revolving Goat Project expanded to include 15 additional households receiving baby goats, fostering a cycle of growth and self-sufficiency.
- We were also thrilled to welcome our first group of Citizen Diplomats to Vietnam since the pandemic. This year, 70 trip participants visited PeaceTrees' work, built people-to-people ties, and enjoyed the beauty, culture, and history of Vietnam.

We are profoundly grateful to you, our friends and supporters, for making this work possible. Our mission remains as vital as ever, and we look forward to even more impact in 2024.

With gratitude and optimism for the future,



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Claire Yunker".

Claire Yunker  
Executive Director



A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Hà Pham".

Hà Pham  
In-Country Director

## AT-A-GLANCE: 2023 IMPACT



5,044 EOs removed & destroyed



8 million+ m2 of land cleared



927 trees planted



29 EORE EVENTS

7 citizen diplomat



trips

309



scholarships



112 volunteers



10 banana plantations



68 goats

452 kindergarteners

1 new kindergarten



654

students receiving hot lunches



8 visits from partners



45 thousand people impacted by PTVN mine action

10

families raising pigs



220+ staff members

77

travelers



# Leadership Reflections

## From Our Board Chair

Dear PeaceTrees Vietnam Community,

As I reflect on the accomplishments of PeaceTrees Vietnam in 2023, I am filled with gratitude for the remarkable community that sustains us, the professionalism that drives our mission, and the enduring relevance of our work in the world.

Anyone who has attended our annual luncheon knows that it feels less like a fundraising event and more like a family reunion. This year was no exception, with members of our PeaceTrees team visiting from Vietnam, Citizen Diplomacy alumni reminiscing about past trips, and new and long-time supporters getting caught up on our accomplishments and future plans. Our Executive Director, Claire Yunker, often says, "PeaceTrees is a friendship organization." This foundational value is reflected in everything we do.

We are intentional about engagement and excellence. PeaceTrees deminers become involved with the communities whose land they are safely clearing. Our Vietnam staff collaborates effectively with partner organizations, scholarship recipients, and Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) participants. The U.S. and Vietnam teams work seamlessly together. Our citizen diplomacy trips continue to cultivate meaningful connections and rich conversations, both while traveling and back home. PeaceTrees' dedication to reversing the consequences of war is a continuing, shared journey toward peace and reconciliation.

PeaceTrees Đông Hà, Quảng Trị headquarters was honored to begin the new year with a visit from U.S. Ambassador Mark Knapper to the Danaan Perry Landmine Education Center. There, the Ambassador planted a tree in memory of his father, U.S. Marine Corps Colonel Roger Knapper, who served in Vietnam. Moments like this remind us that the legacy of war endures, and so must the ongoing work of healing and renewal. They also remind us that as we mark nearly 50 years since the end of the war, PeaceTrees Vietnam's work is as relevant as ever, and remains crucial across communities and generations.

As we continue and strengthen our work in the years ahead, I am confident that PeaceTrees will serve as an exemplary model for post-war recovery. None of this would be possible without you—our supporters, our partners, our friends. In working together to address the legacy of war, we are building a legacy of reconciliation and hope. Thank you for standing with us as we work toward a safer, more peaceful world.



With deep gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sue Warner Bean".

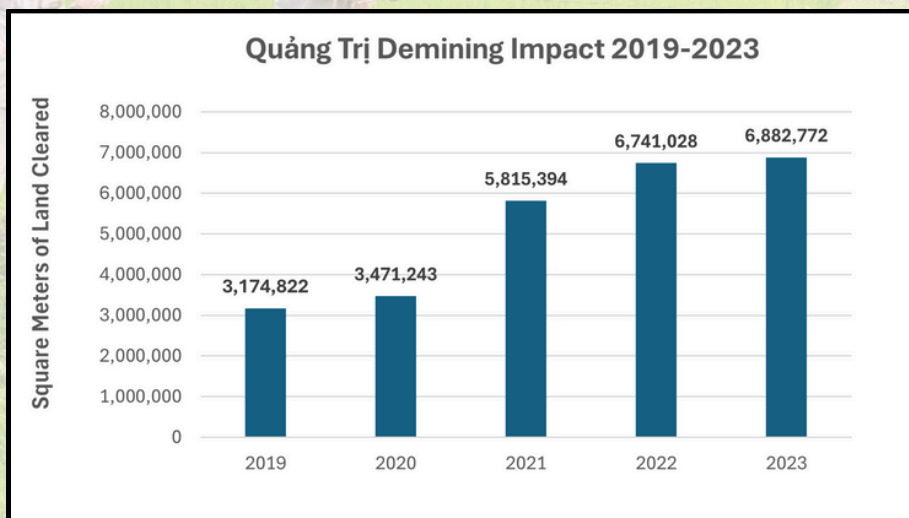
Sue Warner Bean  
*Board Chair*

# Humanitarian Mine Action & Explosive Ordnance Risk Education

PeaceTrees' humanitarian mine action program was a strong pillar of our work throughout 2023. Our 185 field staff, including explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) technicians, worked on 13 teams to clear over 8,800,000 m<sup>2</sup> of land in both Quảng Trị and Quảng Bình provinces directly benefiting over 20,000 people.

## 1 Quảng Trị Province

- 6,800,000+ m<sup>2</sup> of land cleared
- 3,300+ EOs removed and destroyed
- 15,900+ people impacted directly and another 23,600+ impacted indirectly
- 1,900+ EORE sessions for 15,500 people, including 29 education events at schools and over 1,800 EORE sessions integrated with clearance



## 2 Quang Binh Province

- 2,000,000+ m<sup>2</sup> of land cleared
- 1,700+ EOs removed and destroyed
- 4,600+ people impacted directly and 600+ people impacted indirectly
- 1,200+ EORE sessions for 4,600+ people, including 9 education events at schools and over 1,200 EORE sessions integrated with clearance



## Learning to Save Lives: The Power of EORE —

Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) is a crucial aspect of PeaceTrees humanitarian mine action program because it helps community members learn how to stay safe from explosive ordnance (EO) in their daily lives.

In January, a fourth-grade student, Pham Huu Thien An, approached the PTVN team after an EORE event for 350 students at his primary school in Quảng Trị Province, Vietnam. He shared that, based on the EORE presentation, he thought there was an EO in an area of the schoolyard that was under construction.



*Caption: Pham Huu Thien An, points to the place where he found an EO in his schoolyard after an EORE session at Cam Nghia primary school in Quảng Trị Province. The EO was successfully cleared by a PTVN EOD team in January 2023.*

PTVN staff checked the spot and identified a 37mm artillery shell with its fuse intact near where the students had gathered for their EORE session. The team reported the ordnance to the provincial hotline and within 30 minutes a PTVN EOD team arrived and safely removed the EO, preventing a potentially tragic accident.

A few months later, PTVN staff conducted an EORE session with a group of workers constructing graves at a confirmed hazardous area in Quảng Bình Province. The site was under the oversight of a local farmer, Mr. Muoi.

After the session, Mr. Muoi approached the PTVN team to share that he was unaware of the danger of moving EO. “I found a bomblet six days ago while digging in the ground. Because I did not want to slow construction, I moved it and placed it by a nearby pole,” he said.

On average, 44% of the provincial hotline calls that PTVN EOD teams respond to are generated by EORE – underscoring the way that education can quite literally save lives. Through support from the U.S. Department of State, Boeing, and Rotary, PTVN has refined and expanded EORE activities to include tailored sessions for students and teachers, events at community gatherings, and focal point trainings for local leaders from the Women’s Union, Farmers Association, and village heads.

Across these EORE interventions there is a focus on identifying EO, explaining risky actions that trigger EO accidents, highlighting physical, psychological and socio-economic consequences of EO accidents, and accident prevention.

In 2023 alone, PTVN teams in central Vietnam provided EORE to over 20,000 people. Through PTVN’s differentiated EORE approach, students, farmers, community members, and local leaders are each provided with appropriate tools to help prevent EO accidents and promote community wellbeing •

*Caption: A goat from PTVN's Revolving Goat Project, which provides participating community members with the knowledge and skills to raise goats and increase their household income. The revolving nature of the project means that families pass along a baby goat to another family.*





# Post-Clearance Development

## Kindergartens & Scholarships —



*Caption: Two young students receiving scholarships from PeaceTrees Vietnam at a scholarship ceremony in Quảng Trị Province.*

Since 1995, PTVN has built over **23 kindergartens** for communities throughout central Vietnam. During the 2023/2024 school year alone, over **450 kindergarteners** were enrolled in PTVN kindergartens and over **650 students** participated in our hot lunch program. In 2023, we also began the construction of Thanh Central Kindergarten in Hướng Hóa District, Quảng Trị Province. The school was completed in 2024 and will serve **62 kindergarteners** and their teachers each year.

PTVN's scholarship program began in 2005 to support the children of Quảng Trị Province whose parents were impacted by an EO accident. Today, scholarships are still awarded to students who have been impacted by an EO accident, in addition to students who are facing financial hardships, living with a disability, or ethnic minority girls. In 2023 alone, PTVN provided over **300 scholarships** to students from primary school to university.

## Agriculture & Animal Husbandry —

In 2023, over **40 ethnic minority households** in Quảng Trị Province participated in livelihood projects with PTVN. From indigenous banana plantations to pig farming, program participants received the technical training and resources to begin their new livelihood ventures. Our Revolving Goat Project grew and **15 new households** are now participating thanks to the baby goats they received from the project's original households.



*Caption: A banana plantation grown from original seedlings provided to households participating in our Indigenous Banana Planting Project, which is designed to support ethnic minority communities in Đa Kông District's Tà Long Commune.*

# Citizen Diplomacy

---



In 2023, PTVN led its first group of Citizen Diplomats to Vietnam since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, officially resuming our flagship Citizen Diplomacy Program. The first trip of 2023 was led by PTVN co-founder, Jerilyn Brusseau, and included special activities such as tree planting with Vietnamese and American Veterans and Gold Star family members, meeting the newly created Saigon Rotary Club, seeing our demining teams in action, and reuniting with longtime friends of PeaceTrees. In total, PTVN led **seven trips** in 2023, sharing the beauty, culture, and history of Vietnam with over **70 citizen diplomats**.

PTVN's 2023 Board Retreat also focused on the Citizen Diplomacy Program, opening space for staff and directors to discuss pathways for strengthening the program and continuing to foster its growth in an ever-evolving environment. Thanks to these conversations, PTVN has made a number of shifts to the program including investing more resources in training trip leaders, implementing a new application process, introducing a Code of Conduct, and adopting a sliding scale and payment plan to make the travel program more accessible. We also ended 2023 hiring a full-time Citizen Diplomacy Manager to develop the program even further.

*Caption: Jim Conner, Citizen Diplomat and Veteran, plants trees with a Vietnamese Veteran at the Khe Sanh Combat Base in on a Citizen Diplomacy Trip in September of 2023.*

## 2023 Financials

PTVN is proud that our financial statements reflect our commitment to providing direct support to those most impacted by the legacy of war in Vietnam. Our work transforms contaminated land into spaces for education, peace, and economic success.

### Revenue and Support

Unrestricted Contributions: \$561,165

Restricted Contributions: \$315,737

Government Grants: \$2,965,392

**Total Revenue: \$3,842,294**

### Operating Expenses

Administrative: \$198,972

Fundraising: \$204,991

**Total Operating Expenses: \$403,961**

### Direct Program Expenses

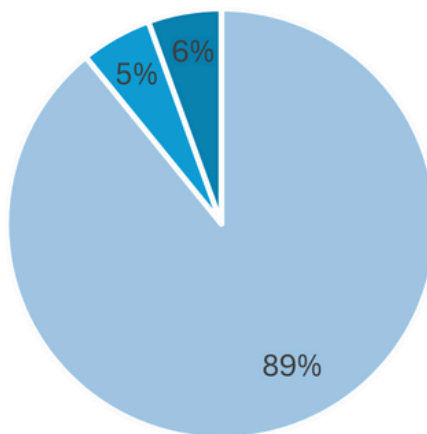
Mine Action Operations: \$2,977,280

Citizen Diplomacy: \$175,452

Economic Development: \$111,569

Survivor Assistance and Scholarships: \$50,210

**Total Direct Program Expenses: \$3,314,511**



- Direct Program Expenses
- Administrative Expenses
- Fundraising Expenses

## 2023 Board of Directors & Staff

### Board of Directors

Doug Alexander

Ron Beman

Megan Bowman

Stephen Chentow, Secretary

Dan Gilman

Carolyn Harper, Treasurer

Kem Hunter

Lisa Kartiganer

Norm Knodt

Brendan Murphy

Lisa Nelson

Daniel Nguyen

Kate Ruffing

Sue Warner-Bean, President

### EOD Response Teams & Provincial Project Staff

Special gratitude to our EOD Response Teams and Provincial Project Office Staff. In 2023, we had 185 field officers and technicians working every day to transform land into spaces for education and peace, and 36 project staff working in Quảng Trị and Quảng Bình Provinces.

### Dong Ha Office Staff

Phạm Thị Hoàng Hà, *Country Director*

Võ Thị Kiều Oanh, *Finance Manager*

Vũ Thị Vân Anh, *Program & HRA Manager*

Lê Việt Sửu, *Information & Database Manager*

Trương Thanh Hà, *Technical Manager*

Đoàn Thị Bích Thảo, *Development Program Coordinator*

Hoàng Đăng Tùng, *Public Relations Officer*

Phạm Minh Phương, *Database and Log Officer*

Trần Thị Thu Hương, *HRA & Citizen Diplomacy Project Officer*

Hoàng Thị Mỹ Hạnh, *Environment Project Officer*

Võ Văn Trung, *Driver*

Dương Bình, *Guard & Maintenance Assistant*

### Seattle Office Staff

Claire Yunker, *Executive Director*

Crystal Oswald-Herold, *Program Director*

Natalie Lawrence, *Community Engagement Director*

Isabel Mata, *Community Engagement Coordinator*

Jen West, *Bookkeeper*

Victoria Muti, *Academic Intern*

### Volunteers & Citizen Diplomats

We would like to extend a special thank you to the dedicated volunteers and Citizen Diplomats who graciously gave their time and energy to support the work of PeaceTrees Vietnam in 2023.

*On the Cover: Hồ Văn Giang, a Site Assessment team member, who has been working with PTVN since 2019.*



**PeaceTrees**<sup>™</sup>  
VietNam

• [www.peacetreesvietnam.org](http://www.peacetreesvietnam.org) • [info@peacetreesvietnam.org](mailto:info@peacetreesvietnam.org) • 206-441-6136