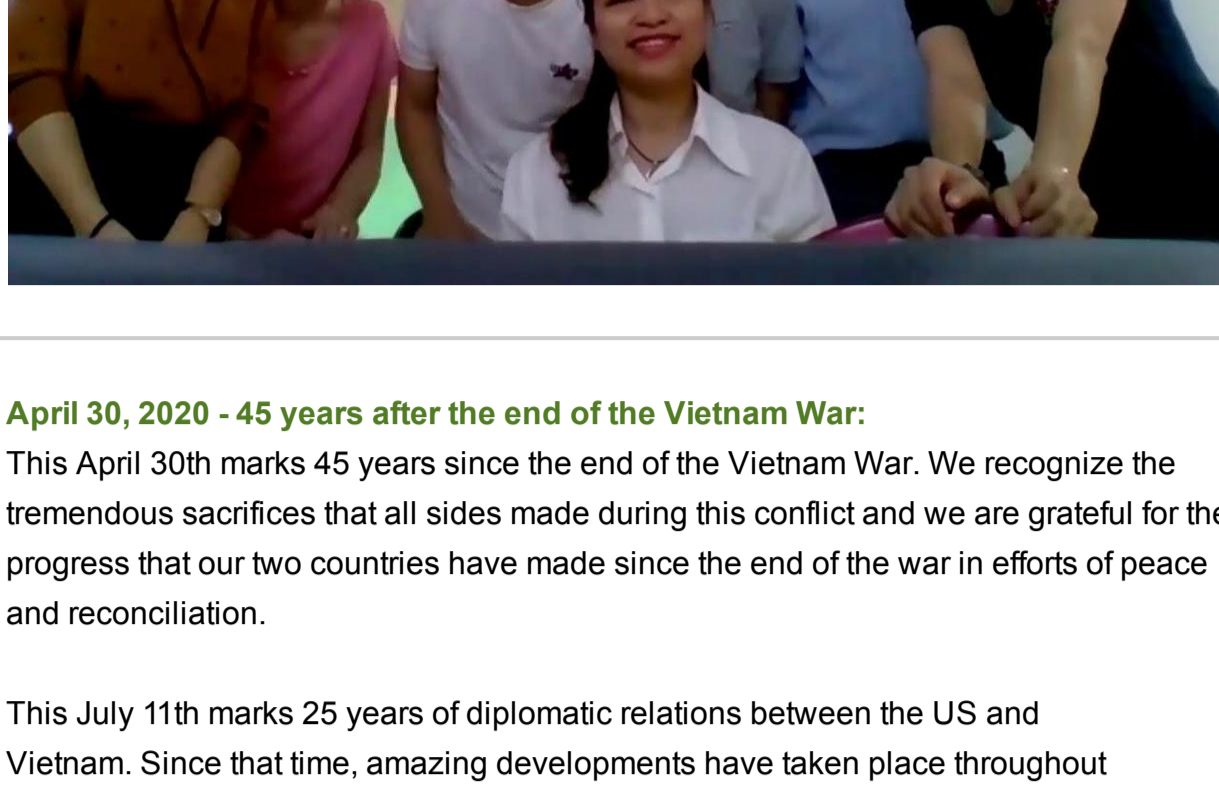


Dear Friends,

We hope that this email finds you in continued health and good spirits! Normally we try to send updates once every other month - but in times like this, we think that it's important to stay in touch, and to let you know about the positive work still being done by PeaceTrees in Vietnam.

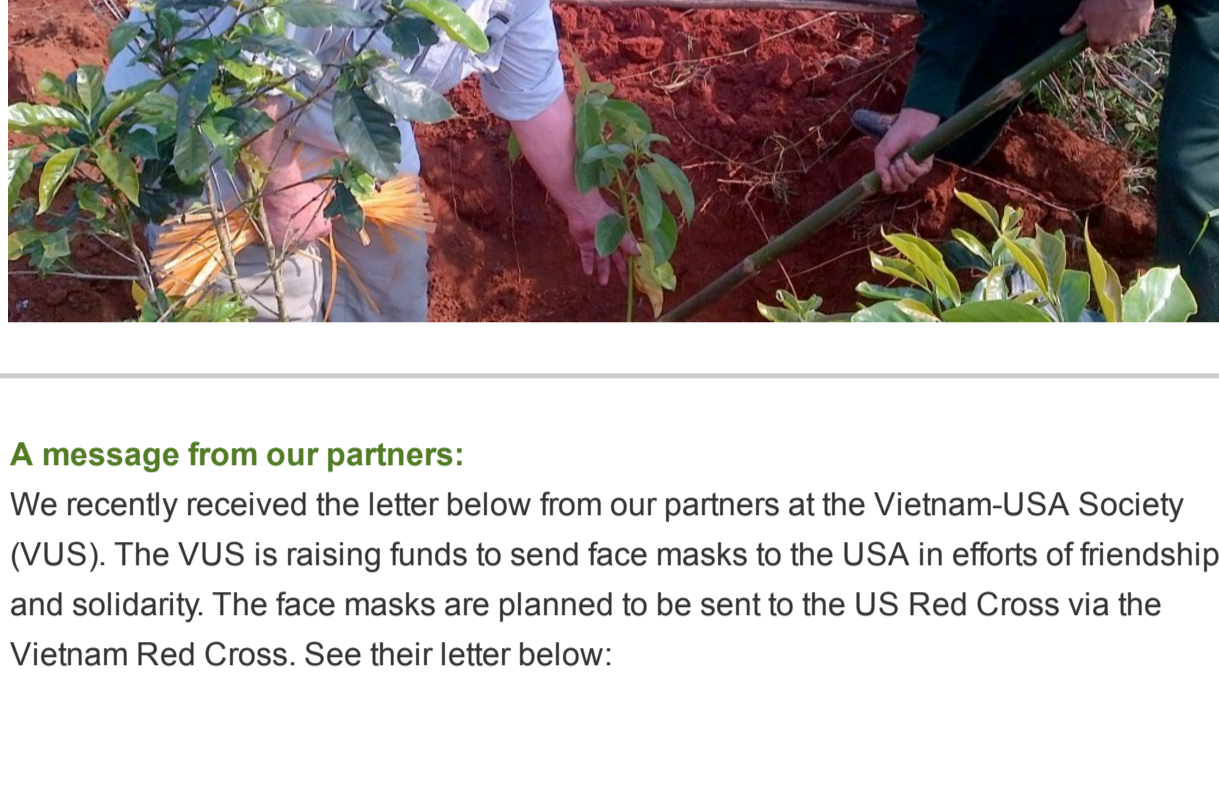
Everyone on our team in Vietnam is doing well, and has returned to work in the office after two weeks of working from home. Due to Vietnam's "stay-home" order, our demining teams paused their operations for two weeks to limit the potential spread of covid-19 to Vietnam's most vulnerable populations. The good news is that our deminers are now back at work and there have been no covid-19 cases in Quang Tri province to date. Vietnam continues to have zero deaths recorded from the disease, providing a shining example of disaster management through this crisis. The team wanted us to pass this along to you:



April 30, 2020 - 45 years after the end of the Vietnam War:

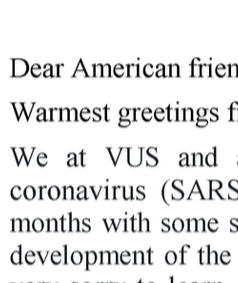
This April 30th marks 45 years since the end of the Vietnam War. We recognize the tremendous sacrifices that all sides made during this conflict and we are grateful for the progress that our two countries have made since the end of the war in efforts of peace and reconciliation.

This July 11th marks 25 years of diplomatic relations between the US and Vietnam. Since that time, amazing developments have taken place throughout Vietnam. Our work aims to address the legacy of war, and to create safe land and successful communities. 45 years later, PeaceTrees is the only US organization working to safely identify and destroy unexploded bombs and mines. Thank you for your continued support of our work to reverse the legacy of war in central Vietnam and to create meaningful friendship and partnerships.



A message from our partners:

We recently received the letter below from our partners at the Vietnam-USA Society (VUS). The VUS is raising funds to send face masks to the USA in efforts of friendship and solidarity. The face masks are planned to be sent to the US Red Cross via the Vietnam Red Cross. See their letter below:



THE VIETNAM – USA SOCIETY

105A-Quan Thanh Street, Ha Noi, Viet Nam
Tel: 84-24-3.8454518 Fax: 84-24-3.8234374

To: American friends/partners

Letter of Warmest Greetings of Friendship & Solidarity

Hanoi, April 21st 2020

Dear American friends/partners,

Warmest greetings from the Vietnam-USA Society (VUS), Hanoi, Vietnam!

We at VUS and all Vietnamese people have been fighting against the novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) also known as the covid-19 pandemic for almost 3 months with some significant results and at the same time following the complicated development of the pandemic and its terrible consequences. Via mass media, we are very sorry to learn day by day the spreading of the covid 19 to 210 countries in the world. Millions of people have become patients, hundreds of thousands lost their lives and millions of others are in poor health, facing unemployment, hardships due to the pandemic.

We feel terribly hurt to know that some states, cities in the U.S have been severely hit by the covid-19 with over 600,000 patients and over 40,000 dead to date. It is unbelievable at peace time.

I also want to let you know that the Vietnam-US Society's Alumni Clubs (VUSAC) in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City have been raising funds for face-masks as assistance to American people in common effort to fight the covid-19.

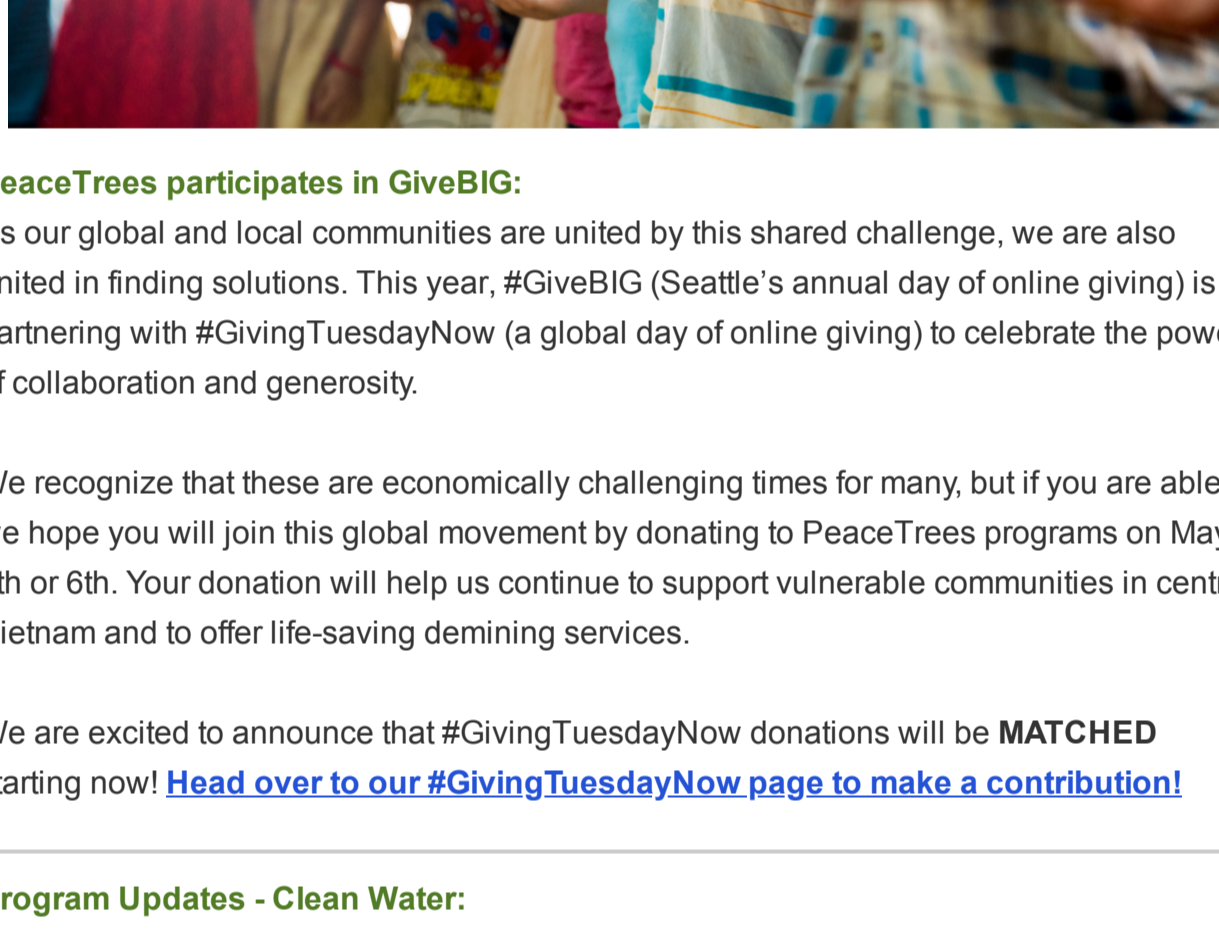
We would like to express our warmest greetings of friendship and solidarity to you and all American people in this difficult time and join hands with you in the fight against the covid-19, the common enemy of mankind at present. We wish you all and your loved ones well and safe, and that the pandemic will be soon over.

We look forward to cooperation with you in 2020 and in the time to come.

Yours in peace, friendship and solidarity,



Amb. Nguyen Tam Chien
President
Former Ambassador of Vietnam to the USA (2001-2007)



PeaceTrees participates in GiveBIG:

As our global and local communities are united by this shared challenge, we are also united in finding solutions. This year, #GiveBIG (Seattle's annual day of online giving) is partnering with #GivingTuesdayNow (a global day of online giving) to celebrate the power of collaboration and generosity.

We recognize that these are economically challenging times for many, but if you are able, we hope you will join this global movement by donating to PeaceTrees programs on May 5th or 6th. Your donation will help us continue to support vulnerable communities in central Vietnam and to offer life-saving demining services.

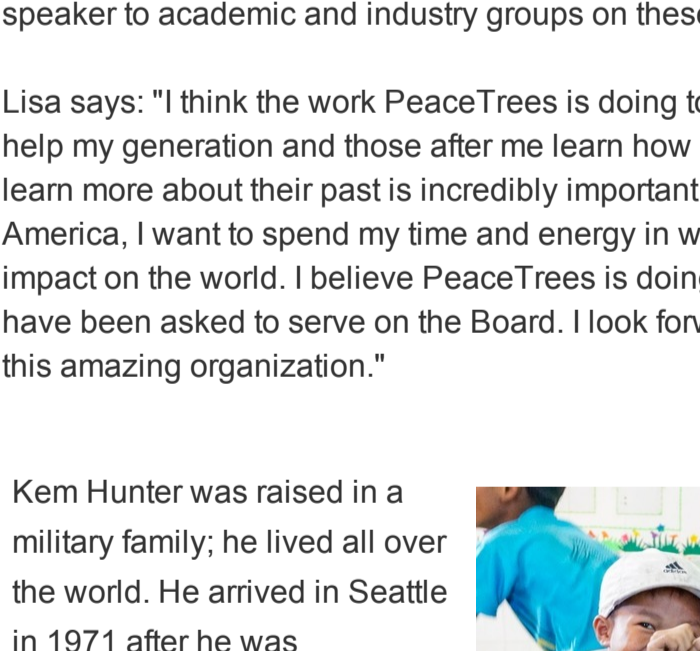
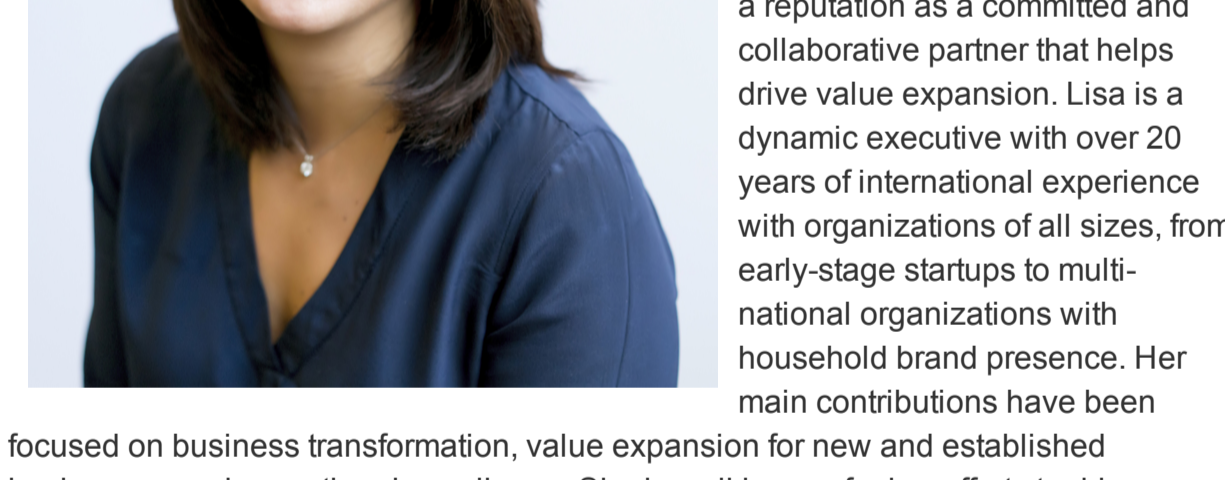
We are excited to announce that #GivingTuesdayNow donations will be **MATCHED** starting now! [Head over to our #GivingTuesdayNow page to make a contribution!](#)

Program Updates - Clean Water:

Thanks to the generosity of the Huynh family, we have been able to support the construction of two water wells in Da Krong District. These wells, scheduled for completion at the end of April, will serve the primary and secondary schools in Huc Nghi commune.

Access to clean water and sanitation is increasingly important for the health and safety of the communities that we work with. Did you know that all of the kindergartens that PeaceTrees Vietnam builds include access to clean water for the children at the school as well as the surrounding community?

We have many more projects planned for this year, including three new kindergartens. Stay tuned for updates on these school, and our other projects in coming newsletters.



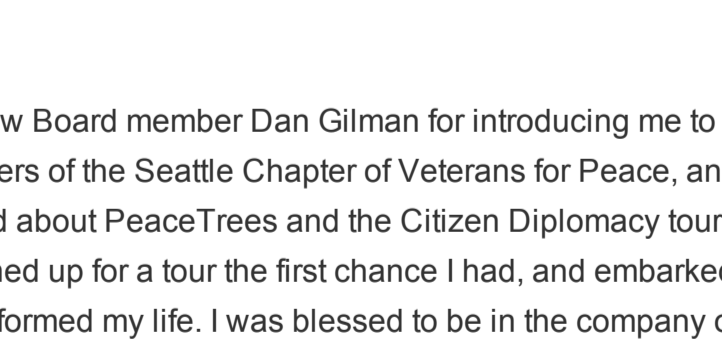
We are very excited to introduce you to Lisa Nelson and Kem Hunter, our two newest Board Members!

Lisa Nelson is an established leader in the startup and enterprise tech communities. She has earned a reputation as a committed and collaborative partner that helps drive value expansion. Lisa is a dynamic executive with over 20 years of international experience with organizations of all sizes, from early-stage startups to multi-national organizations with household brand presence. Her main contributions have been

focused on business transformation, value expansion for new and established businesses and operational excellence. She is well known for her efforts to drive change and disrupt the status quo within these communities, and is also a frequent speaker to academic and industry groups on these topics.

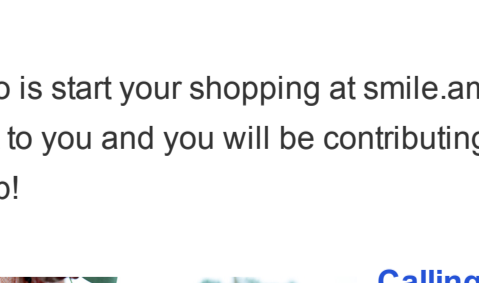
Lisa says: "I think the work PeaceTrees is doing to bridge the past to the present and to help my generation and those after me learn how to connect with their parents and help more about their past is incredibly important. Now that I'm retired from corporate America, I want to spend my time and energy in ways that will have a positive, lasting impact on the world. I believe PeaceTrees is doing that, and I am greatly honored to have been asked to serve on the Board. I look forward to contributing to the mission of this amazing organization."

Kem Hunter was raised in a military family; he lived all over the world. He arrived in Seattle in 1971 after he was discharged from the US Navy, having returned from his second tour of duty in Vietnam. He has devoted much of his life since then to serving his community, both as a professional fire fighter and as a volunteer in many capacities. He took a few breaks to further his education, most recently at the UW School of Law, where he received a law degree in 2000.



Kem says: "I am indebted to fellow Board member Dan Gilman for introducing me to PeaceTrees. We are both members of the Seattle Chapter of Veterans for Peace, and through that association I learned about PeaceTrees and the Citizen Diplomacy tours to Vietnam that it sponsors. I signed up for a tour the first chance I had, and embarked on a two-week journey that transformed my life. I was blessed to be in the company of fellow travelers and PeaceTrees staff members, American and Vietnamese, who cared so much for each other and the communities we serve, and embraced a common vision to further the good work of this organization. I returned home on Tet lunar New Year's day, determined to further my efforts to make this world a more peaceful place, knowing that I would continue to work with PeaceTrees in support of a mission that is close to my heart. It is an honor to serve on its Board."

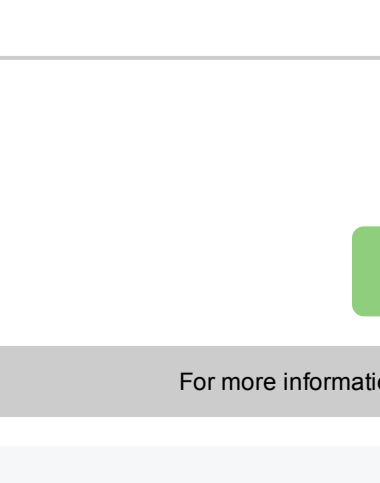
What We're Excited About:



Looking for a creative way to continue to support PeaceTrees Vietnam from home?

Consider shopping with Amazon Smile 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

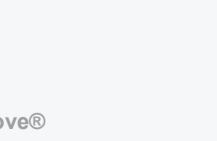
to do is start your shopping at smile.amazon.com. The donation will be made at no extra cost to you and you will be contributing to PeaceTrees Vietnam's lifesaving work while you shop!



Calling all previous Citizen Diplomats:

Save the date! 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 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!

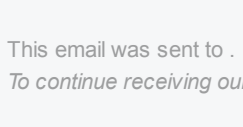
[Please RSVP for the event here!](#)



Contribute to PeaceTrees' work!

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

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