

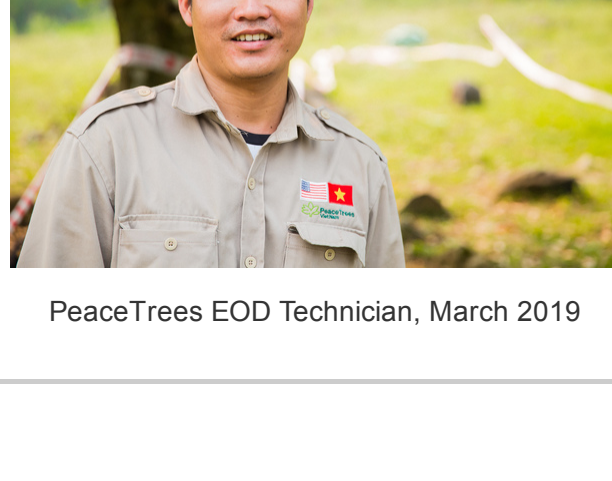


Dear Friends,

As we enter the season of Thanksgiving and reflect on our 2019 accomplishments, we are deeply grateful for your continued support and the incredible progress you have made possible across PeaceTrees' programs - including increasing the size of our demining teams, expanding our school and scholarship programs, and more. In this email you will find updates about our progress for the year and we look forward to sharing more updates as we look ahead to 2020. Thank you for your commitment to healing the legacy of war in Vietnam!



Young boy in Lang Vay Village, March 2019



PeaceTrees EOD Technician, March 2019

Humanitarian Mine Action:

Thanks to increased funding by The Department of State - in 2019 PeaceTrees expanded our teams by adding two Battle Area Clearance teams, two clearance support teams and two survey teams who have helped us improve efficiency and make land safe even faster. PeaceTrees now has 102 deminers working in the field every day to remove unexploded ordnance and create safe communities. This expansion has allowed our EOD teams to focus more of their time on clearance work - increasing our efficiency and productivity. By the end of 2019 we expect to have released a total of **3 MILLION square meters** of land back to communities in Quang Tri Province. Compared to 2018, this is a **161% increase in square meters released!**

We have also continued to emphasize Mine Risk Education and expect to educate over **14,400 people** by the end of 2019. Additionally, in October and November our team in Vietnam held four Mine Risk Education day camps for **1,044 school-aged children** to promote knowledge on how to stay safe.

A future where children can be safe from the explosive remnants of war is finally within reach in central Vietnam. As we enter our **25th year of work**, we plan to continue increasing our productivity through additional expansion of our demining teams which will allow us to make this safe future a reality!



PeaceTrees demining teams and program staff raise awareness of humanitarian mine action on April 4th, 2019 - the UN's International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action



EOD Technicians preparing for a cluster munition detonation, March 2019

Post- Clearance Development: 2019 Highlights

This year, PeaceTrees undertook significant program assessment efforts to ensure that economic and educational development projects effectively support our partner communities.

Economic Development:

With additional support from project partners Olam and Olde Thompson, we improved the quality of the technical advice and assistance offered to farmers participating in the **Black Pepper Project**. This year, pepper farmers harvested their second mature black pepper crop. To help participating farmers during a global drop in pepper prices, we plan to expand efforts to support pepper farmers to diversify their crops in 2020.

We continue to support the **Ba Long Community** through ongoing maintenance and development of the **Ba Long Community Center**. In September 2019 a Citizen Diplomacy group helped paint an extensive mural on the outside of the building.



Ba Long Community Center mural, September 2019



Black Pepper Farmers with their pepper harvest, March 2019

Kindergarten Building Projects:

In March 2019 PeaceTrees and project sponsors dedicated the **Dash Friendship Kindergarten** located in Cooc Village, Huong Hoa District, Quang Tri Province, surrounded by Dash's friends and family! This kindergarten, complete with a kitchen, restroom and playground, provides 39 children with a safe place to learn and play each day.

In October 2019, we completed the expansion of the Friends Forever Kindergarten in Lang Vay village, making it large enough to accommodate all kindergarten-aged students in the village to attend. Before the additional classroom was constructed, 55 students were sharing the original classroom. This new classroom is now open and will be dedicated in January 2020.

We are excited to announce that this year PeaceTrees has once again partnered with One Day's Wages on an **Educational Empowerment Project** which combines school construction and support, nutrition, and scholarships! One Day's Wages has approved PeaceTrees for a 50/50 matching grant to double the size of one of PeaceTrees' existing schools and support both food and scholarship programs. [With your help we can win the match and make this exciting project a reality!](#)

Finally, in 2020 we are looking forward to extending educational development efforts to neighboring Quang Binh Province! Quang Binh is the province immediately to the north of Quang Tri. The kindergarten will be built in Ooc Village which currently has 29 children, ages 3-5, attending a pre-school program housed in an old building used primarily as the community house. This kindergarten will provide these children access to a dedicated classroom, equipment for early childhood education, and a playground - giving them the ability to learn and play on safely cleared land.

Scholarships:

This school year, **262 youth** from first grade through university received funding through PeaceTrees' scholarship program for notebooks, supplies, uniforms, meals, and administrative fees that are often a barrier to education. These students have all demonstrated a financial need, strong studying habits, were directly impacted by an unexploded ordnance accident, and/or are ethnic minority children and young adults.

PeaceTrees' scholarship program has also expanded to include multi-year and increased funding based on grade in order to better match costs to families. We are now providing \$100 per year for primary/middle school students, \$150 per year for high school students, and \$300 per year for university or vocational students! These adjustments will increase the impact of our scholarships and provide more consistency for families who benefit from this program.

In loving memory of Rae Cheney - PeaceTrees has awarded **38 scholarships to female ethnic minority students** from Huong Hoa and DaKrong districts. **The Rae Cheney Scholarship** is designed to make a meaningful and long-term impact, which is why all of these students will continue to receive annual support until they complete their schooling.



Kindergarteners enjoying the new classroom at Lang Vay Village, October 2019



Scholarship recipient receiving award, August 2019



Citizen Diplomacy:

PeaceTrees Citizen Diplomacy Trips provide an opportunity for volunteers to experience Vietnam from a unique and rewarding perspective and bring American and Vietnamese people together to work and play as a means of promoting peace, mutual understanding, and respect. Citizen Diplomacy travelers have the opportunity to see many areas within Vietnam, including Hà Nội, Huế, Đông Hà, Hội An and Ho Chi Minh City, plant trees at a PeaceTrees project site, and interact with Vietnamese community members in a meaningful way that few tourists ever experience. [Read traveler testimonials here!](#)

Upcoming Trip Dates:

March 2020 - Departing March 11th and returning March 26th

September 2020 - Dates TBD, likely a two week mid-September trip

Email us at info@peacetreesvietnam.org or call us at (206) 441-6136 to learn more or to register!



Dash Friendship Kindergarten dedication, March 2019



Citizen Diplomat, Colleen McShane, planting trees, March 2019



Giving Tuesday - December 3rd!

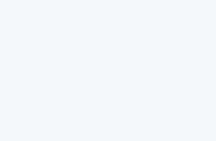
#GivingTuesday is an international day of giving that falls on the Tuesday that follows Thanksgiving every year. It's an opportunity, after giving thanks for the good things in your life to spread that same joy to others. As we approach the holiday season, you can be assured that by partnering with PeaceTrees Vietnam, you are making a direct and continuing impact on those who remain affected by the aftermath of war in Vietnam.

On this global day of giving, we are excited to be partnering with **One Day's Wages**, who will be matching donations for our **Educational Empowerment Project**. Your donation will go twice as far, and will directly be put to use to improve the lives of those in the Quang Tri province.

The Educational Empowerment Project focuses on three areas of educational development: kindergarten education, nutrition, and scholarships. It is built on the recognition that interventions must be both holistic and strategically targeted for students to continue their education successfully.

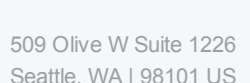
[Read more about this grant here, and please consider a contribution to our Educational Empowerment Project on Giving Tuesday!](#)

Also, please consider sharing this #GivingTuesday fundraiser with your friends and family on social media or by forwarding this email. Even a small donation can make a life long impact. Thank you for being part of the PeaceTrees community!



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

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