



Embarking On Our 25th Year

This January, a group of 21 Citizen Diplomats traveled to Vietnam to participate in several events commemorating the 25th Anniversary of U.S.-Vietnam diplomatic normalization and PeaceTrees Vietnam's 25th Anniversary.

PeaceTrees Vietnam recognized long-time friends and partners at celebrations in Hanoi and Quảng Tri Province. Honored guests in Hanoi included US Ambassador to Vietnam, Daniel J. Kritenbrink and Vietnam Union of Friendship Organizations President, Nguyen Phuong Nga, and partners and friends in the Vietnamese government as well as the NGO community. In Dong Ha, we celebrated with Quảng Tri Province Chairman, Mr. Nguyen Duc Chinn, Quảng Tri Women's Union Chairwoman Đỗ Thị Lý, the Department of Foreign Affairs, and other former Quảng Tri Province leaders, members of the community, and members of our demining teams.

In addition to these two events, PeaceTrees joined Vietnamese officials to plant trees at the former demilitarized zone (DMZ) in central Vietnam to honor the friendship and reconciliation achieved over the 25 years since the U.S. normalized with Vietnam in 1995.



US Ambassador Daniel J. Kritenbrink speaking in Hanoi - January 6, 2020



Madame Đỗ Thị Lý, Chairwoman of Quảng Tri Women's Union speaking in Dong Ha - January 8, 2020



Citizen Diplomats planting trees along the Ben Hai River, the former DMZ, January 10, 2020



Kindergarten Building Project Updates

PeaceTrees' Cheerful Children Kindergarten built in Lang Vay Village and dedicated in January is now open! The new kindergarten is adjacent to the Friends Forever School, which was built in 2016.

Additional kindergarten, scholarship, and school support programs will be partially funded by a generous matching grant from One Day's Wages in support of our **Educational Empowerment Project**. Thanks to your generosity in contributing to the match, One Day's Wages has approved PeaceTrees for a 50/50 matching grant to double the size of an existing kindergarten in Prin C Village and support both food and scholarship programs for children across Quảng Tri.

We are also pleased to announce the extension of educational development efforts and the continued expansion of our work in neighboring Quảng Binh Province this year! A one room kindergarten will be built in Ooc Village, which currently has 29 children, ages 3-5, attending a pre-school program in an old community house. Once safely cleared of unexploded remnants of war, the new kindergarten will provide children access to a dedicated classroom, equipment for early childhood education, and a playground - giving them the ability to learn and play.



Robert Stokes and Susan Schroeter Stokes dedicating the Cheerful Children Kindergarten - January 2020



Children waiting to perform at the Cheerful Children Kindergarten dedication - January 2020



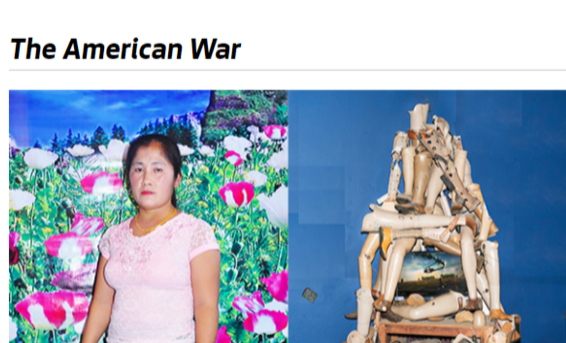
PeaceTrees Citizen Diplomacy Trips provide an opportunity for volunteers to experience Vietnam from a unique and rewarding perspective and bring American and Vietnamese citizens together to work and play as a means of promoting peace, mutual understanding, and respect. Citizen Diplomacy travelers have 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:
September 2020 - two week mid-September trip (dates TBD)

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

What We're Excited About:

The American War



February 6 - March 21, 2020

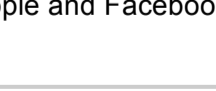
Opening Reception at ARTS at King Street Gallery in Seattle:

Thursday, February 6, 2020, 5 - 7 pm

[The American War](#) is an exhibition featuring photographic and video works, both created and found by artists Pao Houa Her and Sadie Wechsler, that expose the legacy and residue that remains in Southeast Asia and the United States in the aftermath of what is known stateside as the Vietnam War. [Find out more here.](#)



Vietnamese Boat People is a start-up nonprofit working on a podcast series documenting the stories of Vietnamese Boat People. The mission of this project is to preserve and carry forward these stories so that the younger Vietnamese-American generations can understand and be inspired by their heritage. They also aim to be the Vietnamese-American community to pay-it-forward and help today's refugee families transition into new and safer lives. Search for 'Vietnamese Boat People' on your favorite podcast platform like Apple Podcast, or Spotify. Visit www.vietnameseboatpeople.org or follow them on Instagram [@vietnameseboatpeople](https://www.instagram.com/vietnameseboatpeople) and Facebook [@boatpeoplejourney](https://www.facebook.com/boatpeoplejourney).



Contribute to PeaceTrees' work!

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

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