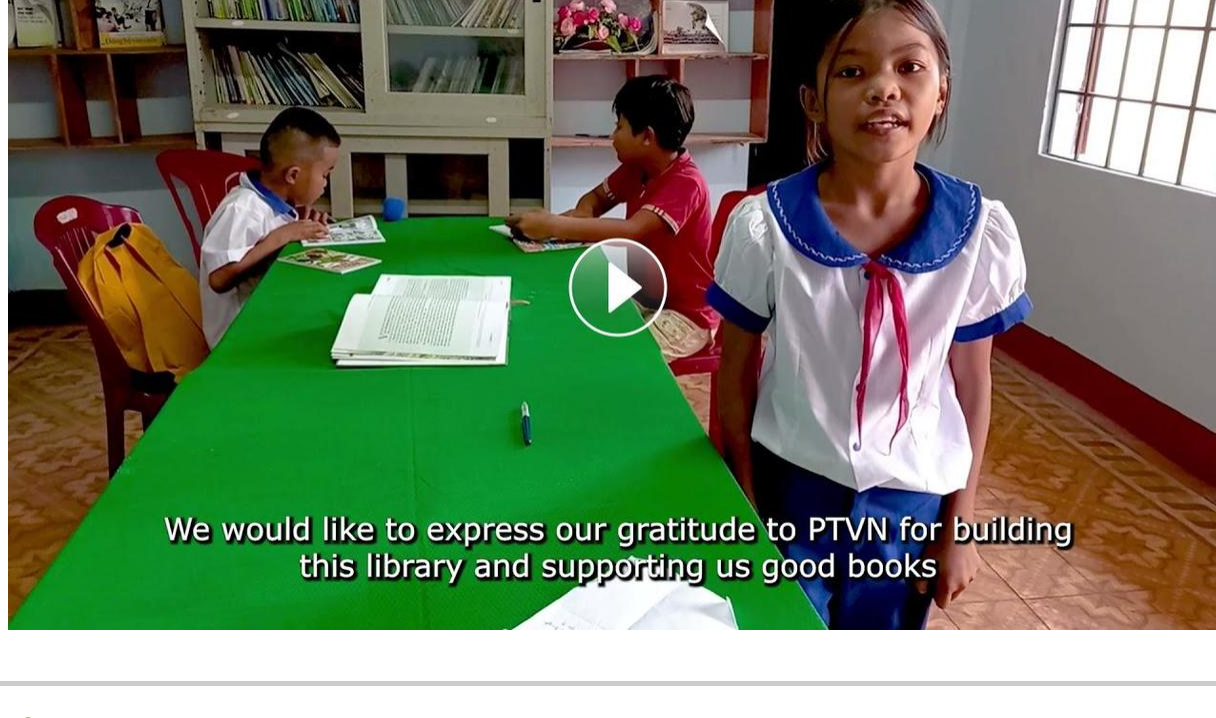




## November 2021 Newsletter

### Messages of Gratitude

PeaceTrees hopes that everyone in the community had a wonderful and safe Thanksgiving! In the spirit of this holiday, we would like to share some messages of gratitude from friends and partners in Vietnam. Thank you for supporting PeaceTrees' lifesaving work!



We would like to express our gratitude to PTVN for building this library and supporting us good books

### Reflecting on PeaceTrees' 26th Anniversary Event

On October 25th PeaceTrees welcomed guests from all over the world to honor 26 years of peace and partnership. We want to extend our most sincere gratitude to everyone who participated, because of their support and belief in our work **over \$300,000 was raised to help fund our lifesaving work!**

Keynote speaker and bestselling author, Dr. Nguyễn Phan Quế Mai, offered a moving address where she underscored the importance of peace, reconciliation, and connection. "We are bound to each other by our wish to do more for those who survived, to help those who still suffer, and to plant the seeds of peace and to grow the trees of peace so tall and strong, they can protect future generations." [If you missed the event, you can still view the recording on YouTube.](#)

### Updates from Vietnam

#### Confirmed Hazardous Area Cleared in Quảng Bình

At the end of October, PeaceTrees Vietnam technicians finished clearing their first Confirmed Hazardous Area (CHA) in Quảng Bình! Teams have been working on this area since March and have cleared 65,455 square meters of land (the equivalent of about 12 football fields) and safely destroyed 34 items of explosive ordnance. PeaceTrees' Quảng Bình teams are currently clearing five other CHAs in the same commune, while also providing Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) to help communities understand what to do if they encounter a bomb or mine.



A PeaceTrees EOD technician provides a Quảng Bình resident with information about what to do if she encounters a suspected bomb or mine



A PeaceTrees EOD technician marks the location of a suspected explosive ordnance

#### Heavy Rains Reveal Dangerous Bombs

Early November brought heavy rains to central Vietnam, unearthing several dangerous bombs. On November 8th, PeaceTrees teams were notified by the Quảng Trị Mine Action Center about two large bombs discovered in Huong Hoa District. PeaceTrees EOD technicians spent five challenging hours removing a 500 lb. bomb and transported it to be safely destroyed. The second bomb, weighing closer to 800 lbs., was deemed too dangerous to move so it was flagged and will be destroyed on site as soon as it is safe to do so.



A PeaceTrees EOD team using bamboo poles to transport the heavy bomb



PeaceTrees EOD technicians measuring the 500 lb. bomb

#### More PeaceTrees EOD Technicians Receive IMAS Certification

On November 5th, 41 more members of PeaceTrees Explosive Ordnance Disposal teams received International Mine Action Standard (IMAS) Level 1 certification. These recipients have all completed intensive training and have spent nearly one year in the field working alongside more seasoned technicians. PeaceTrees is deeply grateful for the continued commitment and dedication all our EOD technicians display on the job!



Three of the EOD technicians receiving their IMAS Level 1 Certificates on November 5th



IMAS Level 1 field training

### #StockMonday, #GivingTuesday, and Year-End Giving

Every year on the Tuesday after Thanksgiving, the world comes together to honor a global day of generosity. This year, **#GivingTuesday** will be celebrated on November 30th, and we hope you think of PeaceTrees when supporting causes that you care about! All gifts made to PeaceTrees on **#GivingTuesday** will support PeaceTrees' scholarship programs.

**#StockMonday** is also around the corner on November 29th, the Monday after Thanksgiving. This day provides an opportunity to highlight the benefits and ease of giving stock to non-profits. [Donating stock is a great way to save on taxes and maximize your impact!](#)



PeaceTrees scholarship recipients in front of the Danaan Parry Landmine Education Center



Quảng Trị students received PeaceTrees scholarships in early November

### Community Events

#### In-Person Book Signing with Dr. Nguyễn Phan Quế Mai

Join Dr. Nguyễn Phan Quế Mai for an in-person book signing at the Friends of Little Saigon creative space in Seattle's International District on Friday, December 3rd. This event is being held in partnership with Elliott Bay Bookstore and there will be copies of *The Mountains* and Quế Mai's translated book of poetry, *The Secret of Hoa Sen* available to purchase. [To learn more about this event, click here.](#)

#### Donate Your Used Vehicle to PeaceTrees

Make your tax-deductible gift to PeaceTrees by donating your unwanted vehicle! PeaceTrees has partnered with non-profit organization CARS to facilitate a vehicle donation program. All vehicles are eligible for donation – even if they are not running! This includes cars, trucks, motorcycles, boats, farm equipment, and even airplanes! CARS has extensive experience with all steps of the vehicle donation process from pick-up to sale. This is a quick, free, and easy way to get an unwanted vehicle off your hands!



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

When you are online shopping, consider Amazon Smile and set 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](https://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!



For more information contact us at 206-441-6136 or [info@peacetreesvietnam.org](mailto:info@peacetreesvietnam.org)

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