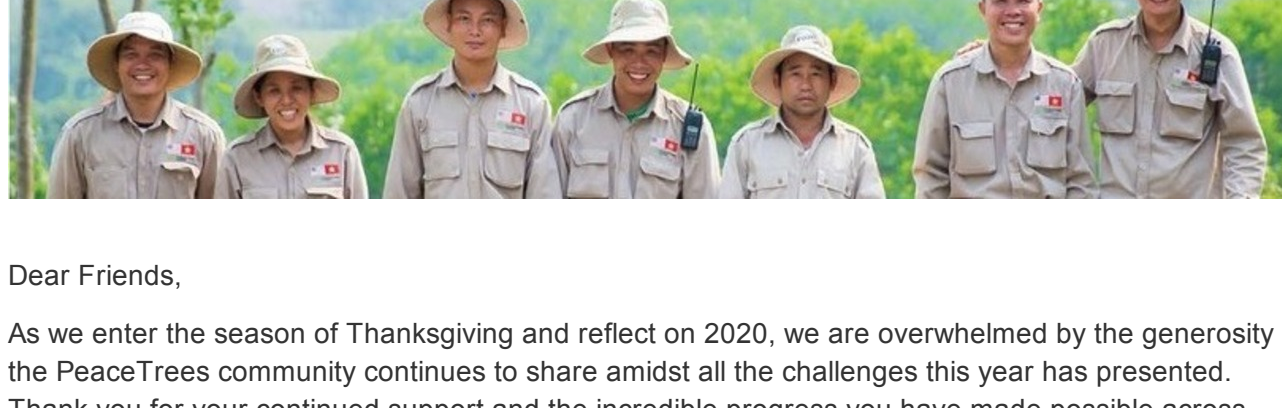


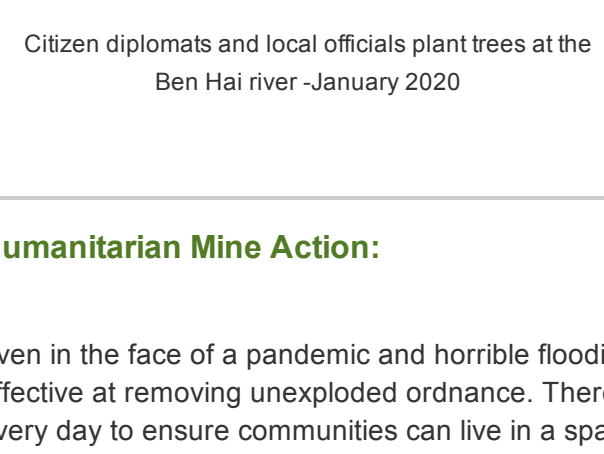
## November 2020 Newsletter



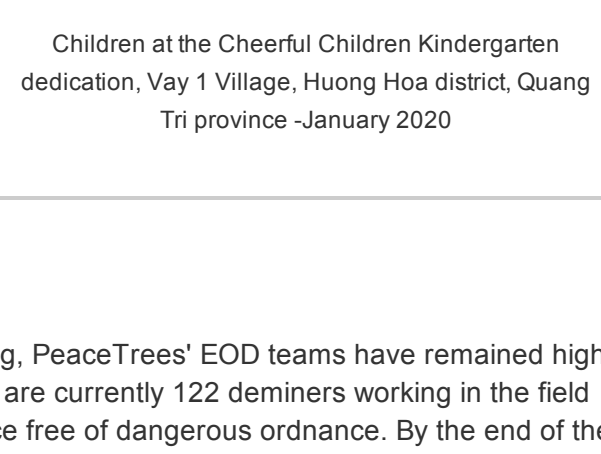
Dear Friends,

As we enter the season of Thanksgiving and reflect on 2020, we are overwhelmed by the generosity the PeaceTrees community continues to share amidst all the challenges this year has presented. Thank you for your continued support and the incredible progress you have made possible across PeaceTrees' programs - including expanding our demining operations into Quang Binh Province, and growing our school and scholarship programs. Just last week 234 scholarships were awarded to children in central Vietnam.

In this email you will find updates about our progress for the year and our emergency response efforts to the flooding and COVID-19 pandemic. We look forward to sharing more updates with you throughout 2021. Thank you for your continued commitment to the work of PeaceTrees Vietnam!



Citizen diplomats and local officials plant trees at the Ben Hai river -January 2020



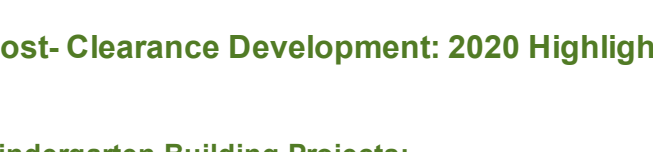
Children at the Cheerful Children Kindergarten dedication, Vay 1 Village, Huong Hoa district, Quang Tri province -January 2020

### Humanitarian Mine Action:

Even in the face of a pandemic and horrible flooding, PeaceTrees' EOD teams have remained highly effective at removing unexploded ordnance. There are currently 122 deminers working in the field every day to ensure communities can live in a space free of dangerous ordnance. By the end of the year we expect to clear a total of **3.3 MILLION square meters**. Throughout the year, PeaceTrees primarily cleared land intended for afforestation and agriculture, both play important roles in assisting local communities.

Due to COVID-19, several Mine Risk Education activities had to be canceled, but EOD teams were still able to visit communities and educate smaller groups on the danger of mines. The teams also held internal refresher trainings for new team members.

As we enter our **26th year of work**, we envision a future where communities are safe from the explosive remnants of war, and plan to continue increasing productivity through additional expansion of our demining teams which will allow us to make this safe future a reality!



PeaceTrees EOD member delivers a small MRE session to community in Quang Tri Province



PeaceTrees EOD trio removes large ERW from the water

### Post- Clearance Development: 2020 Highlights

#### Kindergarten Building Projects:

The **Prin Thanh Kindergarten** was funded by generous donors and One Day's Wages. Construction of the kindergarten was completed this year and 30 students now attend school there! To celebrate the new school and welcome the children, PeaceTrees visited the students and teachers and shared small gifts on the first day of school in September.

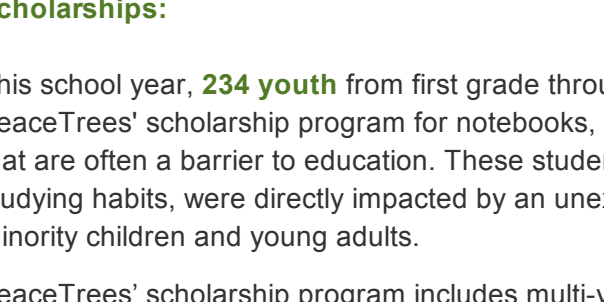
The **Cheerful Children Kindergarten** was also completed this year! In January 2020, PeaceTrees citizen diplomats traveled to Vietnam for the dedication ceremony. The community enjoyed celebrating with everyone who helped support the project!

Construction for the two-room kindergarten, the **Cua Village School**, is now 75% complete. We are excited to welcome 70 kindergarteners to this school in the coming months.

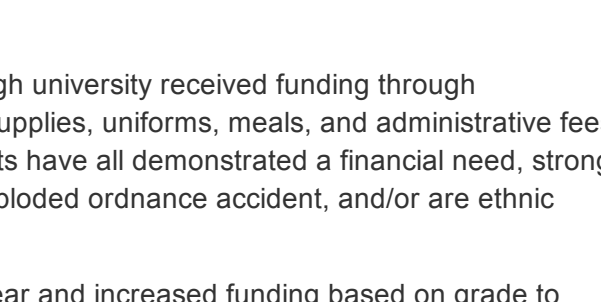
PeaceTrees is also in the process of constructing the **Ooc Kindergarten**, which will be our second school in Quang Binh Province. This kindergarten will provide children access to a dedicated classroom, equipment for early childhood education, and a playground - giving them the ability to learn and play on safely cleared land.

PeaceTrees and the communities of Quang Tri and Quang Binh are deeply grateful to the sponsors of each of these projects!

While there is a lot to be grateful for, the flooding has had significant impact on our kindergartens, all of which needed new furniture and the **Jesse Griego Kindergarten** (originally built in 2009) needs to be completely rebuilt. **Jim Lewis, the school's original sponsor and dear PeaceTrees friend, brought the same group of dedicated individuals (who funded the kindergarten initially) together to raise the funds needed to help PeaceTrees build a stronger Jesse Griego Kindergarten.**



Students receive gifts on their first day of school at the Prin Thanh Kindergarten- September 2020

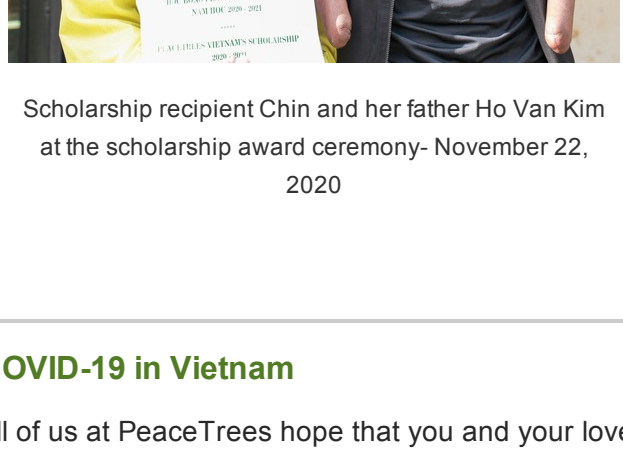


The front of the new Prin Thanh Kindergarten building

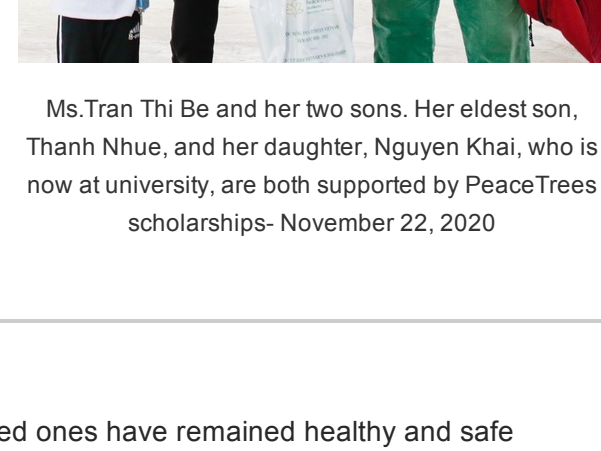
#### Scholarships:

This school year, **234 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 includes multi-year and increased funding based on grade 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, made in 2019, have increased the impact of our scholarships and provided more consistency for families who benefit from this program.



Scholarship recipient Chin and her father Ho Van Kim at the scholarship award ceremony- November 22, 2020



Ms. Tran Thi Be and her two sons. Her eldest son, Thanh Nhue, and her daughter, Nguyen Khai, who is now at university, are both supported by PeaceTrees scholarships- November 22, 2020

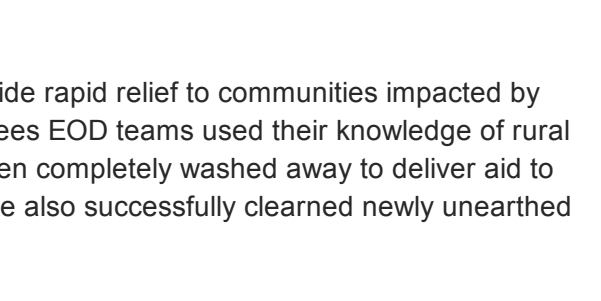
### COVID-19 in Vietnam

All of us at PeaceTrees hope that you and your loved ones have remained healthy and safe throughout this turbulent year. In Vietnam, a country of 95 million, only 1,300 COVID cases have been confirmed to date. In April, we suspended our demining operations for two weeks but due to swift and cautious measures put forth by the government, residents of Vietnam have been able to resume "normal" life relatively quickly. While we hope 2021 delivers pandemic relief for all, we are grateful to have been able to continue life-saving work throughout an unpredictable year.

Throughout the spring, PeaceTrees provided health and sanitation supplies to kindergartens! Students and teachers received face masks, hand sanitizer, wipes, and other supplies necessary to make the classrooms as safe as possible so that children could continue to learn in person.



Students at the Jesse Griego Kindergarten receive masks to wear while in the building

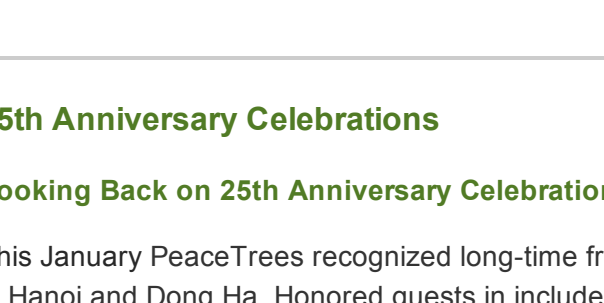


A student using a hand washing station provided by PeaceTrees

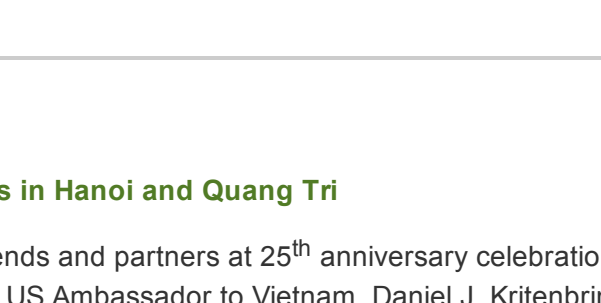
### PeaceTrees Flood Relief Response:

The PeaceTrees team in Vietnam was able to provide rapid relief to communities impacted by October's horrific flooding and landslides. PeaceTrees EOD teams used their knowledge of rural geography to navigate areas where roads have been completely washed away to deliver aid to difficult-to-reach communities. Our EOD teams have also successfully cleaned newly unearthed ordnance in the wake of flooding.

In response to the needs of communities in Quang Tri and Quang Binh, PeaceTrees created the Central Vietnam Flood Relief Fund. Thanks to our generous community, this fund has already generated over \$31,000 to help communities rebuild their lives and livelihoods! Our teams in Vietnam are predicting a long road to recovery for many individuals in central Vietnam impacted by the flooding. We are making plans to continue assisting communities in need through the donations raised through this fund.



Members of PeaceTrees bring supplies and water to a community in Quang Tri Province- October 2020



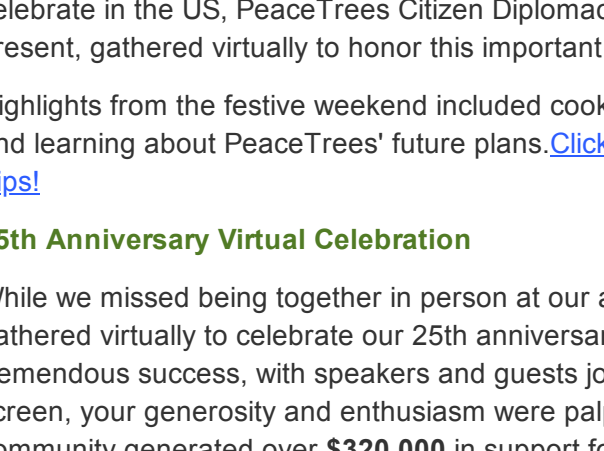
PeaceTrees in-country director, Ha Pham, delivers aid to a family impacted by flooding- October 2020

### 25th Anniversary Celebrations

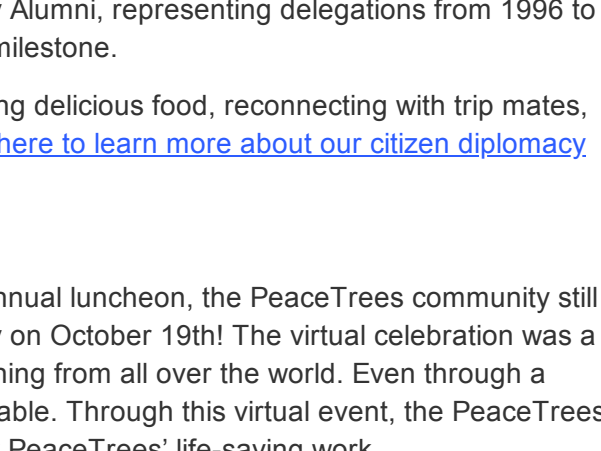
#### Looking Back on 25th Anniversary Celebrations in Hanoi and Quang Tri

This January PeaceTrees recognized long-time friends and partners at 25th anniversary celebrations in Hanoi and Dong Ha. Honored guests 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.

This July our team in Vietnam had the honor of welcoming representatives from the US Embassy, the Quang Tri Women's Union, and the Quang Tri Department of Foreign Affairs to the Danaan Parry Landmine Education Center for commemorative activities. They planted trees, left messages of hope for the future, and painted a special 25th Anniversary mural to celebrate 25 years of life-saving work!



Painting a 25th Anniversary mural at the Danaan Parry Landmine Education Center



Ambassador Kritenbrink speaking at 25th Anniversary Celebration in Hanoi

#### All-Time Citizen Diplomacy Reunion

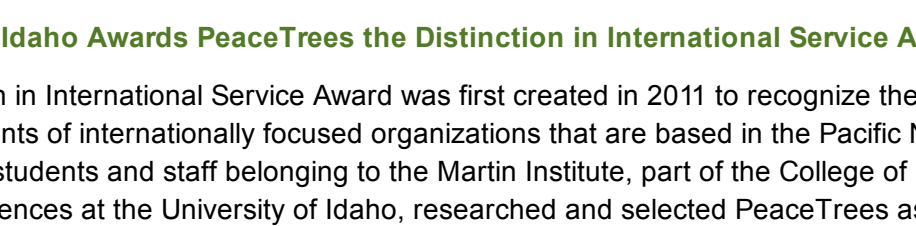
On July 11th, PeaceTrees recognized two important anniversaries- the 25th anniversary of normalized diplomatic relations between the US and Vietnam, and PeaceTrees' 25th Anniversary. To celebrate in the US, PeaceTrees Citizen Diplomacy Alumni, representing delegations from 1996 to present, gathered virtually to honor this important milestone.

Highlights from the festive weekend included cooking delicious food, reconnecting with trip mates, and learning about PeaceTrees' future plans. [Click here to learn more about our citizen diplomacy trips!](#)

#### 25th Anniversary Virtual Celebration

While we missed being together in person at our annual luncheon, the PeaceTrees community still gathered virtually to celebrate our 25th anniversary on October 19th! The virtual celebration was a tremendous success, with speakers and guests joining from all over the world. Even through a screen, your generosity and enthusiasm were palpable. Through this virtual event, the PeaceTrees community generated over **\$320,000** in support for PeaceTrees' life-saving work.

Did you miss the event? [Click the image below to watch it in its entirety!](#) You will hear from distinguished guest speakers, including a keynote panel featuring the Honorable Daniel J. Kritenbrink, the U.S. Ambassador to Vietnam, the Honorable Nguyễn Phương Nga, President of Vietnam Union of Friendship Organizations, and the Honorable Hà Kim Ngọc, the Vietnamese Ambassador to the U.S., moderated by Governor Gary Locke, the former U.S. Ambassador to China.



Please note the presentation begins at 53:40

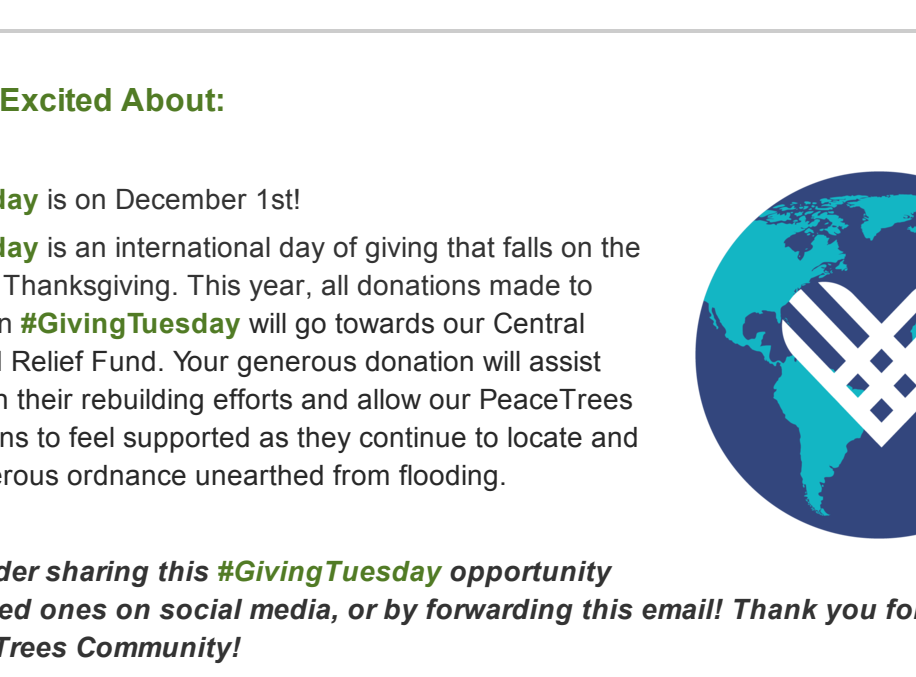
### #Media Highlights from the Year:

#### University of Idaho Awards PeaceTrees the Distinction in International Service Award

The Distinction in International Service Award was first created in 2011 to recognize the accomplishments of internationally focused organizations that are based in the Pacific Northwest. A committee of students and staff belonging to the Martin Institute, part of the College of Letters, Arts and Social Sciences at the University of Idaho, researched and selected PeaceTrees as the 2020 winner to commemorate our life-saving work in Vietnam!

#### Costco Connection and PeaceTrees' Pepper Farms

Did you see the article about PeaceTrees in the September issue of Costco's lifestyle magazine, Costco Connection? This magazine is distributed to 12 million Costco shoppers! The cover story centered around PeaceTrees land clearing efforts, our pepper farmers, and Costco's Kirkland Signature Pepper product. [Click here to read the article in its entirety and learn more about PeaceTrees Pepper!](#)

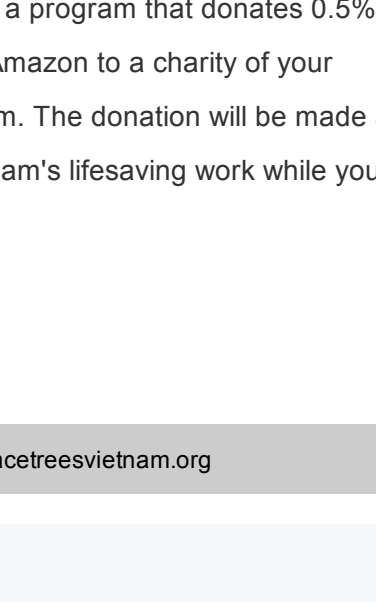


The first page of the PeaceTrees Vietnam story in the September Costco Connection

### What We're Excited About:

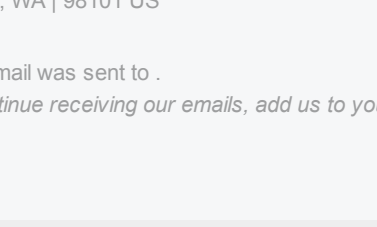
#### #GivingTuesday is on December 1st!

#GivingTuesday is an international day of giving that falls on the Tuesday after Thanksgiving. This year, all donations made to PeaceTrees on #GivingTuesday will go towards our Central Vietnam Flood Relief Fund. Your generous donation will assist communities in their rebuilding efforts and allow our PeaceTrees EOD technicians to feel supported as they continue to locate and remove dangerous ordnance unearthed from flooding.



**Please consider sharing this #GivingTuesday opportunity with your loved ones on social media, or by forwarding this email! Thank you for being part of our PeaceTrees Community!**

[Looking for a creative way to support PeaceTrees Vietnam from home?](#)



When you do your holiday shopping this year, 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. 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

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