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PeaceTrees Vietnam 2011 Annual Report

PeaceTrees Vietnam

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Recommended Citation

Vietnam, PeaceTrees, "PeaceTrees Vietnam 2011 Annual Report" (2011). *Global CWD Repository*. 47.
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PeaceTrees VietNam

Healing the Land • Building Community • Planting Futures



2011 Annual Report

Board of Directors & Staff

Board members who served for all or part of the 2011 calendar year:

Ron Beman
Jerilyn Brusseau – *Co-Founder*
Linda Cheever
Rae Cheney
Cynthia Chirot – *President*
Tracy Garland – *Secretary*
Catherine Hazen
Paul Kennel
Evin Morris – *Treasurer*
Thoa Nguyen
Lam Nguyen-Bull
Bob Stokes – *Vice President*
Aly Vander Stoep
Marie Tran
Joe Yencich

Volunteers

A special thank you to all our dedicated volunteers who graciously give of their time and talents to support the work we do.

Staff

Seattle Office

Blair B. Burroughs, Executive Director
Milica Koscica, Program Coordinator
Laurie J. Christomos, Program Assistant
Mikaila Gawryn, Program Assistant

Vietnam Office

Quang Le, In-Country Director
Pham Thi Hoang Ha, Project Manager
Vo Thi Kieu Oanh, Accountant & Administration
Vu Thi Van Anh, Project Officer
Doan Thi Bich Thao, Project Officer
Vo Van Trung, Driver & Administration
Duong Binh, Security

Photo Credit: Unless otherwise noted, Quang Le and Blair Burroughs with PeaceTrees Vietnam took the photos. Front cover by Lung Liu.



About PeaceTrees Vietnam

PeaceTrees Vietnam is a Seattle-based humanitarian §501(c)(3) organization working in Central Vietnam to assist those whose lives and livelihoods are threatened by the explosive remnants of war. Founded in 1995, PeaceTrees was the first international non-governmental organization given permission to engage in humanitarian demining work in Vietnam after the war.

Quang Tri Province, where our work is focused, is one of the poorest and most war-torn provinces of Vietnam. Over the last thirty five years, more than 10,800 people in the province have been killed or maimed by landmines and unexploded ordnance. In one out of every five cases, the victim is a child.

PeaceTrees is a strong believer that mine action involves more than clearing war-contaminated land.

Today, our mine action work has expanded to include sponsoring the removal of landmines and unexploded ordnance (UXO); promoting mine risk education and accident prevention education; engaging in environmental and community restoration projects; conducting tree-planting/citizen diplomacy programs for environmental restoration and friendship building; offering assistance to UXO victims and their families; micro-credit lending; and sponsoring economic and social development.



2011: Year in Review

The year began with Yale University's Service Learning trip bringing students to teach English to Quang Tri residents. In March, students from the Bay Area Athenian High School also traveled to Vietnam and raised money to install a playground and soccer field for local youth.

Early in the year, we inaugurated the Healthful Gardens for Healthy Children program funded by the Washington Women's Foundation. This program cleared 132 family garden plots and provided training in sustainable agricultural practices that have allowed women to grow more nutritionally balanced crops for their families.

With the generous support of the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial Foundation, we added an Explosive Ordnance Disposal team and expanded our clearance work into neighboring Quang Binh province.

In March, we celebrated the completion of our 11th library. The *Peace and Reconciliation Library* was sponsored by families and friends of former Executive Director Chuck Meadows. This library includes a Safe Shelter which provides a place for women and children to stay overnight when domestic violence makes home unsafe.

2011 saw steady growth in our scholarship program. Scholarships are awarded to children of landmine accident victims who face many obstacles in supporting their children's education. In the past two years, our scholarships doubled to support 200 children.

In June, students and faculty from Edmonds Community College met with landmine survivors and planted trees as a part of their bi-annual Citizen Diplomacy trip. In July, students from the University of Washington provided household improvements for families in need and installed playground equipment as a part of their summer abroad in Vietnam.

A delegation from the Washington Center for Women and Democracy raised funds for new playgrounds in the Vinh Hoa and Hai Vinh Communes. In September, the delegation joined our staff in Vietnam, helping to install the structures as a part of their visit to Southeast Asia.

Also in September, our Mine Risk Education program brought students from 38 secondary schools who participated in poster painting, essays contests and skit competitions all geared toward sharing knowledge about the dangers of Unexploded Ordnance and landmines. This year's essay contest was generously supported by Grace Church of Bainbridge Island, WA.

Finally, in November we joined with many of our donors to celebrate our 16th Anniversary Luncheon. Together with the Chairwoman of Quang Tri Province's Women's Union, Madam Nguyen Thi Thanh Thuy, we celebrated the continuing work of partnership with the Vietnamese people. With generous support from our donors we raised more than \$130,000, preparing us to continue life-saving work in the year to come!

Key accomplishments over the last 16 years:

By the end of 2011, the PeaceTrees Vietnam Explosive Ordnance Disposal teams had located, removed, and **destroyed 63,343 pieces** of unexploded ordnance. It had **cleared 216 hectares** (534 acres) of contaminated land. PeaceTrees had provided mine risk **education** to more than **72,750 children and adults**. It has provided survivor assistance to more than **783 UXO victims** and family members. And on safely cleared land, PeaceTrees and its volunteers have planted more than **41,927 indigenous trees**, built **100 homes**, **five kindergartens**, and **11 libraries**. Finally, **585 citizen diplomats** have traveled with PeaceTrees to Vietnam to continue our efforts to build bridges of **friendship and peace** with the Vietnamese people.

Our Programs

LANDMINE AND UNEXPLODED ORDNANCE CLEARANCE

PeaceTrees Vietnam's core work is sponsoring the clearance of landmines and unexploded ordnance (UXO) in Central Vietnam. There is a great need for this clearance work since nearly 84 percent of land in Quang Tri Province is still designated as potentially unsafe.

Three PeaceTrees explosive ordnance disposal teams worked throughout the year clearing fields, schoolyards, roadsides, gardens, and other areas of the explosive remnants of war. Over the last 16 years we have achieved remarkable results, removing from the land more than 63,000 dangerous weapons – landmines, bombs, mortar shells, and grenades. In those cleared areas, farmers can once again plow their fields without fear and, in turn, feed their families.



MINE RISK EDUCATION

The prevalence of landmines and UXO in Central Vietnam makes mine risk education a priority. Because many unexploded bombs and landmines look like toys, children pick them up not knowing of the consequences until it is too late. One out of every five landmine victims is a child.

The center of PeaceTrees' mine risk education program is the Danaan Parry Landmine Education Center, the only center of its kind in Vietnam. The Center provides education to children by displaying interactive materials about landmines and UXO. Additionally, the Center serves as a training center for Vietnamese volunteers who return to their own communities to teach mine awareness.

SURVIVOR ASSISTANCE

As part of its life-saving work, PeaceTrees Vietnam offers assistance to UXO victims and their families through emergency medical treatment, long-term medical or health care, nutritional support, household economic support, educational scholarships, and micro-credit lending.

During our 16 years of work, we have provided survivor assistance to more than 783 UXO victims and their families. In 2011 alone, 200 students received scholarships that included books, supplies, uniforms, and tuition fees.



CITIZEN DIPLOMACY TRIPS & TREE PLANTING

PeaceTrees was founded with the goal of promoting peace, friendship, and renewal by building understanding and respect between Americans and Vietnamese. By bringing people together to plant trees, share a meal, a laugh or a tear, we create affirmative experiences for people and reach beyond stereotypes. Travelers experience Vietnam from a unique and rewarding perspective.

In 2011, we hosted six citizen diplomacy trips: Yale University trip, Athenian High School trip; a library dedication trip, Edmonds Community College group; University of Washington service learning trip; and a visit from the Center for Women and Democracy delegation.

Our Programs

COMMUNITY BUILDING: HOMES, KINDERGARTENS & LIBRARIES

The landmine and UXO contamination in Quang Tri Province creates barriers to community development. PeaceTrees Vietnam believes that community building is an essential part of mine action. Therefore, PeaceTrees constructs kindergartens and libraries throughout the province. We work with local government organizations to identify those communities in the province with the greatest need and then partner with US citizens, families, and service groups to raise construction funds.

In 2011, PeaceTrees built the Peace and Reconciliation Library in Trieu Dong commune. PeaceTrees has now built a total of 11 libraries, 5 kindergartens, and 100 family homes.



MICRO-CREDIT LENDING

Quang Tri Province is one of the poorest in Vietnam. The extensive landmine and UXO contamination impedes full participation in a wide range of productive economic activities.

To help improve the standard of living, PeaceTrees supports a micro-credit program, administered jointly with the Quang Tri Province Women's Union. Modest loans provided to women permit small business enterprises, such as tailoring, and family-based income generation through animal husbandry and farm-to-market agricultural production.



OUR MISSION

PeaceTrees Vietnam is a humanitarian organization dedicated to healing communities affected by war. We accomplish this through landmine removal and education, survivor assistance, and citizen diplomacy.

OUR VISION

Our vision is to create a safe and healthy future for the children and families of Central Vietnam.



Mine Risk Education Takes Center Stage



Over the last 35 years, more than 10,800 people in Quang Tri Province, Vietnam, have been killed or maimed by landmines and unexploded ordnance remaining from wartime. As part of its life-saving work, PeaceTrees Vietnam provides crucial mine-risk education to at-risk populations, especially children and teenagers in remote areas.

PeaceTrees has managed a robust Mine Risk Education (MRE) program specifically structured to target the Van Kieu and Pa Ko ethnic minority populations living in the Huong Hoa and Da Krong districts of Quang Tri province, near Khe Sanh.



In 2011, through a generous grant from Grace Church Outreach, we organized an MRE themed essay, theatre and poster contest involving participants from 38 secondary schools, reaching a total of 13,000 students.

The essay contest engaged at-risk students to think deeply and creatively about the mine risk issues that affect them and their peers daily.

PeaceTrees Vietnam has assembled winning essays into 300 Mine Risk Education Booklets that will be used in all participating schools to strengthen these lifesaving messages.

Grace Church's mission of inclusion, service, discovery and gratitude has been furthered by our strong partnership which has spanned more than 12 years. PeaceTrees Vietnam is deeply grateful for this spiritual and financial embrace of our mission to heal the land, build community and plant futures in one of the most war-torn regions of the world.

“Local people still have to work in the garden where landmines might be somewhere under the ground. This scared me.”

- Do Thi Thanh Nhan
8th grader from Tan Long School

Healthful Gardens for Healthy Children

PeaceTrees Vietnam is honored to have received the first ever international grant from the Washington Women's Foundation for our "Healthful Gardens for Healthy Children" project in Mo O Commune, Quang Tri Province.

There are a number of factors contributing to the poverty in Mo O Commune. For example, knowing that land is contaminated with UXO, farmers plow less deeply because of concerns about being killed or injured from landmines or cluster bombs. Diminished crop yields translate to diminished family income, thus contributing to the very high poverty rates and malnutrition.

We are excited that the project was a success and has been enthusiastically received by the local villagers. Under the project, PeaceTrees Vietnam cleared UXO from 132 family garden plots and then provided education and training on sustainable agricultural methods and techniques for planting nutritionally balanced foods. The women participating in the project received gardening tools, seeds, fertilizer, nets, and stakes that they could not otherwise afford. These gifts allowed them to begin farming anew on safe ground.

After a full year, families are growing lettuce, amaranth, cabbage, luffa, and beans. On average, a family saves nearly \$10 USD a month, a significant portion of their livelihood. These women have vegetables to feed their families and to sell in local markets for extra income. This green and healthy source of vegetables provides food safety and income security for the families of Mo O Commune.



Partners & Grants

U.S. Partners

Marshall Legacy Institute
United States Department of State – Office of Weapons Removal & Abatement
Vietnamese Friendship Association

Vietnam Partners

The Vietnam Union of Friendship Organizations
The Vietnam-USA Society
People's Aid Coordinating Committee
The Vietnam Women's Union
People's Committee of Quang Tri Province
Foreign Relations Department of Quang Tri Province
The Vietnam Women's Union of Quang Tri Province
People's Committee Dong Ha Town

Grants & Awards

Washington Women's Foundation
Vietnam Veteran's Memorial Fund
Seattle International Foundation
Roy A. Hunt Foundation
Grace Episcopal Church
Hayward Family Foundation
The Peach Foundation



Our Donors

PeaceTrees Vietnam is grateful to our supporters whose remarkable contributions have allowed us to continue to renew relationships with the people of Vietnam and promote a safe, healthy future for its families and children. We are extremely thankful for the outstanding support from longtime friends and new donors. We offer our heartfelt thanks to the thousands of supporters we don't have space to list, including the many who gave of their valuable time.

\$10,000 - \$100,000+

Eve & Ellsworth Alvord • Ron Beman and Dawn Trudeau • Fluke Danaher Corporation • David & Carol Hansen • Hayward Family Foundation • Alyson McGregor • Seattle International Foundation • US Department of State - Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement • Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund • Washington Women's Foundation

\$5,000+

Karyl & Elias Alvord • Noey & Tom Congdon • Fran's Chocolates • Marshall Legacy Institute • The Seattle Foundation • The Sexton Family Foundation • Robert Stokes • Lyn Tangen & Richard Barbieri

\$2,500+

The Athenian School • Doug Blayney • Celebrated Chefs • Center For Women & Democracy • Linda & Mac Cheever • Laurie Christomos • Edmonds Community College • Chuck Gaede • Garvey Schubert Barer Law • Grace Episcopal Church • Donald & Cindy Hacherl • Neil Leonard • Pamela McCabe • Jeannie McKnight • Roy A. Hunt Foundation • Kate Somers • University of Washington • Marci Williams • Yale University

\$1,000+

Kimberly Alquist • Monica Anderson • Ruth Beckett • Ben Bridge Jewelers • Dylan Bigelow • Fran & Peter Bigelow • Bill Bryant • Colleen Byrum • John Carey • Connie & William Cederberg • Cynthia Chiro • Derek Cray • Amanda Dubois • Lisa Ekus • Kevin Espirito • Stephen Esposito • Jim Faulstich • Emily Fissel • Gary & Gwen Fuji-McLaughlin • Tracy & Tom Garland • Christine Gaunt • Peter Goldman & Martha Kongsgaard • Lee Gorsuch • Michael Graves • Group Health • Lynn Grove • Carl Haefling • Shirley Hamm • Catherine Hazen • Steven Hoover • Edward and Jo Anne Iacobacci • Namhan Le • Nancy Lewars • Carla Lewis • Linens by Alice • Marie Mentor • Cassandra Naylor • Thoa Nguyen • David Oskamp • The Peg & Rick Young Foundation • Daniel Price • Hiep Quach • Jim Sanders • Judy Savich • Semrod Family Private Foundation • Frank & Cheryl Spinuzzi • Katy Steward • Washington Athletic Club • Shauna Woods • Daniel Young • Gail Young

\$500+

Gary Ackerman • William and Carolyn Bailey • Shari and John Behnke • Daniel Belenky • Sandra Broberg • Kay Bullitt • Blair Burroughs • John Carmody • Michael Caryl • Bill & Karla Center • Chris Clark • Mary Treuthart and Dan Webster • Bruce Detert • Rosh Doan • Karl Ege • Stephen Fissel • David Fontana • Dan Gilman • William & Emily Glueck • Bill & Carolyn Harper • Thomas Hayward • Nancy Henderson • Paul Herstein • Marjorie Hillson • John Hinterberger • Eric Liu & Jena Cane • Peter Kerr • Jennifer Korn-Leech • Marcy Lagerloef • Richard Lasser • Quan Le • Donald & Martha Logan • Judith Lonquist • Carla Marsh • The Peach Foundation • Lee Raaen • Radiant ZEMAX, LLC • Tricia Raikes • Steven & Fredrica Rice • Jim and Jean Robbins • Jon Schorr & JoAnne Tompkins • Tim Schottman • Joan Shalikashvili • John Stadler • Thomas Tiernan • Dzung Vo • Tom Walsh • Cynthia Williams • Paul Woodruff • Joe & Kathleen Yencich

Financial Snapshot Year End 2011

Statement of Activities for Year Ending December 31, 2011

Changes in Unrestricted Net Assets

Revenue and Support

Government grants	\$571,633
Contributions	152,997
Foundation grants	42,195
Special events	111,497
Citizen Diplomacy	77,009
Interest income	1,385
In-kind donations	9,714
	<u>966,430</u>

Net assets released from restrictions 9,577

Total Revenues, Public and Other Support 976,007

Expenses

Program services	773,862
Management and General	114,859
Fundraising	44,594
	<u>933,315</u>

Total Expenses 933,315

Change in Unrestricted Net Assets 42,692

Changes in Temporarily Restricted Net Assets

Net assets released from restrictions (9,577)

Change in Net Assets 33,115

Net assets as of 1/1/10 262,365

Net assets as of 12/31/10 \$295,480

Statement of Financial Position as of December 31, 2011

ASSETS

CURRENT ASSETS

Cash and cash equivalents	\$267,903
Receivables:	
Grants and contracts receivable	12,067
Promises to give	8,784
Prepaid expenses	<u>28,332</u>
Total current assets	\$317,086

Micro loan portfolio	<u>\$10,789</u>
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TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$327,875</u>
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LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Liabilities

Accounts Payable	5,533
Credit Cards Payable	868
Accrued Payroll, Taxes & Benefits	7,524
Trip Advances	18,470
Other Deferred Revenue	
Loan Payable	
Total liabilities	<u>32,395</u>

NET ASSETS

Unrestricted	267,429
Temporarily restricted	<u>28,051</u>
Total net assets	<u>295,480</u>

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	<u>\$327,875</u>
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