In her words... we continue to find guidance and inspiration for the work we do.
Pearl S. Buck remains one of the most quotable women ever. Her pearls of wisdom are found everywhere from Pinterest to an article about robotics in a Los Angeles newspaper and a sign at the Moab Giants Dinosaur Park in Utah. As you follow the pages of this gratitude report, her words will guide you through what Pearl S. Buck International has accomplished here in the United States and internationally this past year.

We are grateful for Pearl S. Buck’s words and actions that continue to inspire us in all we do. We are equally grateful to our donors, sponsors, volunteers, staff, and board of directors. Because of your dedication and commitment, we are able to put her words into action to continue her legacy and make our world a better place. Thank you.

It all began with one woman, one woman ahead of her time. Pearl S. Buck was just one woman but that one woman’s work as a prize-winning author, humanitarian in action, thought leader, activist for the rights of all marginalized people, and one of the most quotable women ever was the epitome of excellence.

Pearl S. Buck’s legacy of bridging cultures and changing lives is the reason for everything we do at Pearl S. Buck International … and her words continue to inspire us. As you explore the pages of our Gratitude Report, Ms. Buck’s own words of wisdom will guide you to reflect on the passion in the work we joyfully do.

All of us at Pearl S. Buck International experience the transformative power of Pearl S. Buck’s influence when:

• We witness unsettling incidents of conflict and intolerance at this divisive time in our history, but are able to bring people of different backgrounds together through our Child Sponsorship and Welcome Workplace programs.

• We sense a hunger for knowledge of other cultures and are able to create and host beautiful, inspiring, and informative exhibits in our Exhibit Gallery.

• We see children and communities in dire need, and we are able to transform their lives and futures through our Child Sponsorship and Project Sponsorship programs.

• We realize the need to understand the present day with the knowledge of yesterday and are able to meet that need through guided tours of the Pearl S. Buck House, a National Historic Landmark.

We are honored to carry on the work and wisdom of Pearl S. Buck to make this a better world for all people of all backgrounds … and we are so thankful for your contribution.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Janet L. Mintzer David A. Ballai
President & CEO Chairman of the Board

“The secret of joy in work is contained in one word—excellence.”

Pearl S. Buck

• Welcome Workplace, a new intercultural education program for organizations, businesses, and schools launched.

• Pearl S. Buck International served a total of 111,550 individuals in need from China, South Korea, Philippines, Taiwan, Thailand, and Vietnam in the areas of health, education, and psycho-social aid.

• The Pearl S. Buck House closed the year with a 45% increase in house visitation compared to the last fiscal year.

• A $250,000 grant from the Barra Foundation was awarded to develop a new, interactive tour of the Pearl S. Buck House which will address issues and attract a broader demographic.

• An expanded marketing team began a rebranding effort including development of a new logo, securing a $120,000 Google grant to improve SEO and preliminary design of a new website.

• Revenue from multiple sources increased in the fiscal year: bequests by 38.2%, grants by 24.72%, events/classes (including Taste of the World and Woman of Influence) by 8%, Living the Legacy fundraising by 7.7%.
Welcome Workplace

Pearl S. Buck’s personal experience living as a minority in her formative years shaped her outlook on the world and its people. It sparked her deep desire to speak out using powerful words to advocate for a society of inclusion. Some of the same issues Ms. Buck addressed decades ago still exist today in a changing global economy with an increasingly diverse mix of people.

Ms. Buck’s forward-thinking words and actions built bridges of cultural understanding that have changed lives for more than a half century. Inspired by her, we have developed “Welcome Workplace.” The program offers training, education, and consulting for organizations, businesses, and schools to establish an environment that embraces diversity and inclusion and results in improved workforce performance and achievement of goals.

Interest in the program has been strong indicating that perhaps now, more than ever, her words of activism will help our world evolve into a more accepting place for the brotherhood of man.

Her words of activism

Exhibits

This year’s exhibits illuminated Pearl S. Buck’s legacy as a champion for marginalized people and a civil rights activist. The carefully planned displays guided visitors to learn little-known facts about Ms. Buck’s literary contributions.

Comic Books Unmasked: A Look at Race (January through December 2016)

Pearl S. Buck’s visionary leadership in promoting intercultural understanding was surprisingly evident through her involvement in the comic books world. She served as a consultant for the creation of their superhero, Johnny Everyman, who traveled the world understanding all cultures and languages with his superpower of empathy. This exhibit illustrated the colorful story of how she fought racism of Chinese and Indian cultures when she served on the editorial board of DC Comics and was a writer for Real Facts Comics in the 1940s. It created wonder among visitors to see a Nobel and Pulitzer Prize-winning author involved in this arena.

Jewish Flight into China (January through August 2017)

Beautiful art, artifacts, and photography enabled visitors to explore the topic of cultural migration and highlighted some of Ms. Buck’s literary publications. The story of Jewish acceptance and assimilation in China came to life in Pearl S. Buck’s first stage play, Flight into China: her novel, Peony; and articles in Asia magazine, which she published with her husband, Richard Walsh. All helped fuel Buck’s reputation for bringing the wonder of the East to the people in the West.

“Life is the wonder with which we are all infused.”

Pearl S. Buck
In this fiscal year, 98% of our sponsored children progressed to the next grade level, exceeding our goal of 90%.

Her words of compassion

Humanitarian Aid

The plight of helpless children in need touched the heart of Pearl S. Buck and stirred her to establish ground-breaking humanitarian programs. This year a total of 108,458 children and family members were served through our international programs.

China In China, Pearl S. Buck International works directly with the Chongshi Girl’s School to enable students from low income families to attend high school through our child sponsorship program. This year 91% of the graduating sponsored girls were admitted to universities.

Philippines The Pearl S. Buck Foundation Philippines, an independent affiliate of Pearl S. Buck International, provides aid to ethnic minority children and families. This year the foundation continued the backyard gardening project and launched a campaign to recruit in-country sponsors. In collaboration with RE Cares, a tutorial program also was launched.

South Korea The Pearl S. Buck Foundation Korea, an independent affiliate of Pearl S. Buck International, assists biracial children and multicultural families (made up of foreign laborers who marry Korean citizens) to transition into Korean culture and society while giving support to raise healthy children. Program services this year helped family members with health support, educational programs, psychosocial activities, and food donations. Former pro football player, Hines Ward, reunited with sponsored children (now adults) who participated in his Pearl S. Buck International Fatherland Tour to the U.S.

Taiwan The Pearl S. Buck Foundation, Tapei, Taiwan, an independent legal entity, serves the needs of foreign spouses in Taiwan and the children of international marriages. This year the foundation provided social welfare services and legal advice, educational assistance, new immigrant female empowerment services, and community-based social support.

Thailand The Pearl S. Buck Foundation Thailand, an independent affiliated program, provides aid to ethnic minorities and children impacted by HIV/AIDS. This year the foundation held life skills camp activities, provided nutritional and educational support to sponsored children and their family members in Bang Rongkla, and began providing aid to the children of the Hmong Hill Tribe who suffer from malnutrition, disease, and lack of educational support.

Vietnam Pearl S. Buck International operates a branch office in Vietnam which serves children living in six orphanages in the Hanoi region. In July 2016, planning began to assist the Friendship Orphanage to ensure the children receive nutritious meals, educational, and psycho-social support.

Her words of connection

Cultural Programs

As a prolific writer, Pearl S. Buck’s award-winning literary works taught us that exposure to experiences and cultures of others can be life enriching when embraced without fear. Our Cultural Tours and Global High School Leadership Program continue the learning through discovery and connection.

Cultural Tours

In the first quarter of 2017 Fred Shea, Pearl S. Buck International Vice Chair of the Board, and Tony Luna, Vice President of Relationship Development, led a cultural tour of the Philippines. The group of eleven enjoyed visiting historic sites as well as being immersed in the natural beauty and everyday life of the Philippines. Child sponsors in the group also met the children and families they support for the first time. The lives and hearts of all were changed forever by these moving encounters.

Global High School Leadership Program

Generously funded by Comcast, this program helps teens to become better students, college applicants, and global citizens while they build relationships, hone leadership skills, and develop greater cultural awareness. The students learn about our work in the countries we serve and then spearhead a humanitarian project to apply collaborative teamwork lessons in the program. This year 47 students representing 16 area schools graduated from three sessions.

• Summer 2016 Students raised money for an orphanage serving disabled children in Vietnam. The funds were used to provide door and window screens, bug lights, and rat snares to provide protection for the children.

• Fall 2016 Students raised money to support the Pearl S. Buck House, general operating expenses of Pearl S. Buck International, and humanitarian aid to children in the Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam.

• Spring 2017 Students hosted a cultural activity day and raised funds to purchase $17 hygiene kits for sponsored children in the Philippines.
House Tours

Docent-led biographical and historic tours of the Pearl S. Buck House, a National Historic Landmark, have been well-planned and well-received by visitors for decades. The tour reveals facts and successes of Ms. Buck’s life circumstances and touches on her activism and humanitarian efforts.

Now, an additional tour is under development to provide more details about the issues she confronted in her lifetime that remain relevant today thanks to generous funding from the Barra Foundation and collaboration with the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience. Guided by research, advisors, consultants, and focus groups, this tour will reveal the advocacy and impact Ms. Buck had (and still has) on issues of yesterday and today.

The new tour will launch in September 2018. It is designed to attract a diverse, younger demographic, foster engagement, address issues, and encourage action to keep alive Pearl S. Buck’s legacy of “pressing steadily for human equality.”

Rebranding

Pearl S. Buck, through her words, wielded influence that caused positive action for change and understanding.

This year Pearl S. Buck International started major steps to improve its communication through a rebranding effort with support from the Barra Foundation grant as a new house tour is unveiled. The marketing team was expanded to create a new direction and new brand which will be launched in early 2018. The guiding philosophy for this effort: our messaging must emanate from the person who started it all, the incomparable Pearl S. Buck—who she was, what she did, and why it matters still today.

- A new positioning statement was created to capture our expanded offerings.
- A new logo has been designed with a fresh, clean appeal.
- New approaches are in process to reach a broader audience through various mediums including social channels.
- A Google grant was awarded and will be used to accelerate SEO (search engine optimization) and improve visibility of our organization and mission.
- A new website design will use compelling images, videos, and infographics combined with user-friendly navigation to engage visitors.
- Website design elements are being created for delivery on multiple devices.

In today’s world, websites are often the portal or front door to an organization. Like the beautiful front door to the Pearl S. Buck House, we are proud to introduce our new modern entry—we hope it will make you feel welcome and encourage repeat visits to our “house.”
Her words of welcome

Community Programs and Events

Worldwide Business & Cultural Luncheon: Colin Powell and Jin Roy Ryu

Along with the Central Bucks Chamber of Commerce, we were honored to host General Colin L. Powell as the keynote speaker at the Worldwide Business & Cultural Luncheon which recognized his personal friend, Jin Roy Ryu, the founding and continuing Chairman of the Board of Pearl S. Buck Foundation Korea. Mr. Powell commended Mr. Ryu’s contribution to “the needs of young people, social progress, and diversity” and shared comments about America’s Promise Alliance, the Internet, universal health care, fighting discrimination for social justice, and embracing immigrants. The event was emceed by Nydia Han, consumer reporter and Sunday morning co-anchor for 6ABC Action News who shares Korean heritage with Mr. Ryu.

What America Means to Me

On April 23, 2017, we convened a widely diverse and distinguished panel of Philadelphia-area professionals, to discuss their experiences as immigrants to the U.S. from countries as far away as Hungary, Norway, and Pakistan. This community event, which was held at the Cultural Center of Pearl S. Buck International, was inspired by Pearl S. Buck’s essays, “What America Means to Me” and “On Discovering America,” and quotes from both essays guided the discussion. Each panelist attested to America’s meaning as “the land of opportunity” in their life journey.

Woman of Influence

Like Pearl S. Buck, Pamela Varkony is an author, inspirational speaker, and activist for the rights of women. Ms. Varkony, was honored as the 34th Woman of Influence, joining the ranks of such notable past honorees as Pulitzer and Nobel Prize-winning author Toni Morrison; business leader and philanthropist, Rosalind L. Wee; and former First Lady Laura Bush. Her acceptance address spoke of how Ms. Buck, business leader and philanthropist, Rosalind L. Wee; and former First Lady Laura Bush. Her acceptance address spoke of how Ms. Buck's essays, “What America Means to Me” and “On Discovering America,” and quotes from both essays guided the discussion. Each panelist attested to America’s meaning as “the land of opportunity” in their life journey.

Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2017

Revenue by Program Area $2,703,374

- 53% General contributions
- 33% Sponsorships & Champions for Children
- 12% Grants/contracts
- 4% Special Events
- 2% Rentals
- 2% Pearl S. Buck House tours
- 2% Cultural Programming
- 1% Membership
- 0% Other Revenue

Expenses by Program Area $2,095,171

- 38% International Programs
- 38% Pearl S. Buck House
- 10% Cultural Programs
- 9% Fundraising
- 5% Management & general

Revenue

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Expenses

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Expenses by Program Area $2,095,171

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- 38% Pearl S. Buck House
- 10% Cultural Programs
- 9% Fundraising
- 5% Management & general

Net Assets

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Thank You for Your Generous Support
Dear donor listed below gave from January 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017.
Vision
The legacy of Pearl S. Buck unites nations, societies, communities, and individuals with an appreciation for cultural differences and a commitment to service.

Mission
Pearl S. Buck International provides opportunities to explore and appreciate other cultures, builds better lives for children around the globe and promotes the legacy of our founder by preserving and interpreting her National Historic Landmark home.