



## Pearl S. Buck's Humanitarian and Cultural Legacy Lives on in Korea

In 1965, Pearl S. Buck founded what would become Pearl S. Buck Foundation Korea (centered in Bucheon City) to help the biracial children of American fathers and Korean mothers. The foundation's support has grown over the years due to expanding services to a large influx of immigrants to the city. Pearl S. Buck felt a connection to that immigrant spirit, having said that she herself lived as a foreigner throughout much of her life. Pearl S. Buck Foundation Korea keeps busy throughout the year supporting multicultural families in an environment where they often face discrimination. Over the years, Pearl S. Buck Foundation Korea has maintained and built upon the humanitarian and philanthropic spirit of Pearl Buck in Korea. The Foundation also collaborates with Bucheon City to keep the cultural contributions and legacy of Pearl S. Buck alive.

Many sites in Bucheon City bear Ms. Buck's name, such as Pearl S. Buck Memorial Hall, which preserves and exhibits about 250 of Ms. Buck's keepsakes. Every year on her birthday and day of death, celebrations

and memorial events are held. The Memorial Hall organizes cultural events not only for multicultural families but for all citizens. Events include readings of Pearl S. Buck's novels and concerts to commemorate the spirit of Pearl Buck. Since 2008, the Pearl S. Buck Commemorative Literature Award has also been given to children and youth in honor of Ms. Buck's accomplishments as a writer. Other cultural commemorative events in Bucheon City include the Pearl S. Buck Culture Festival, now in its 13<sup>th</sup> year, and the Pearl S. Buck Community Service Award, which celebrates the community service and philanthropic spirit of Pearl Buck.

In addition, this past year Pearl S. Buck Foundation Korea started a program to help multicultural and

diverse families create a healthy family environment and foster positive relationships. This support included a parent-child group counseling program, a camp to provide opportunities for families to share a positive and pleasant experience together and visiting family counseling services. The discrimination and economic hardships faced by multicultural families can negatively affect family dynamics without proper support. This project has helped provide emotional and psychological stability to these families to help them not only form but maintain healthy relationships with each other.

Despite her death, Pearl Buck's powerful presence as a humanitarian and social advocate are still felt in Korea today. In that vein, Pearl S. Buck Foundation Korea aims to make more active efforts to revitalize international exchanges and strengthen connections between Korea, the United States, and China, and to continue to move forward with its humanitarian efforts, encouraged by the everlasting spirit of Pearl S. Buck. 🌍



## Share Summer with Your Sponsored Child



Summer is a time of relaxation and reflection welcomed by young and old around the world. It is a perfect time to connect with your sponsored child to share experiences.

In the US, the school year ends and summer vacation begins. Some families send their kids to sleep-away camp or day camp for a week or the whole summer. Many families go on vacation together and recently, the idea of “staycations,” or relaxing at home, has become big. Celebrating Independence Day on July 4<sup>th</sup> with fireworks, parades, and barbecues is a tradition for lots of American families, and many regular summer weekends are spent at parties or the pool.

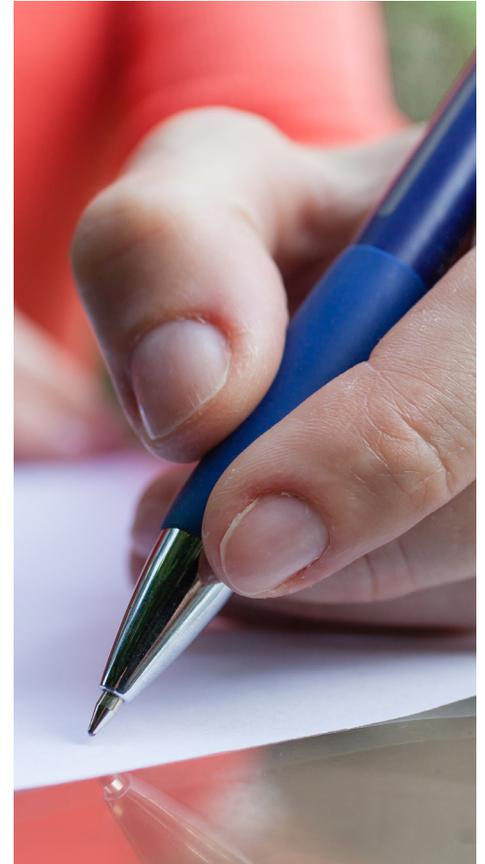
In many of the countries in which Pearl S. Buck International serves—China, Korea, the Philippines, Taiwan, Thailand, and Vietnam—summers are very hot and humid, often with temperatures above 100 degrees. Without air conditioning or even fans, sponsored children do what they can to keep cool in the summer months. Many times, this means swimming in nearby rivers and canals, often without adult supervision. Pearl S. Buck International’s Swimming Training and Drowning Prevention Program in Vietnam aims to teach sponsored children in the orphanages there how to swim and provide them with life jackets and first aid skills to help should they see someone else drowning. Summer is also the rainy season in many of these

countries. Increased rainfall in general and an increased risk of typhoons can destroy homes and livelihoods, cause flooding, spread disease, and are often deadly. Pearl S. Buck International’s Help a Child Prepare for Disaster project in the Philippines intends to teach sponsored children and their parents the importance of disaster preparedness and disease prevention. It will also provide boots, raincoats, umbrellas, and disaster kits which can be used during the rainy season. You can find out more about both these projects at [pearlsbuck.org/fund-a-project](https://pearlsbuck.org/fund-a-project).

In Vietnam, June 1 was Children’s Day, which is full of activities and gifts in celebration of the country’s children. Many sponsored children in all the countries in which Pearl S. Buck International works also enjoy summer vacation from school and more time, when they aren’t helping at home, to play with their friends and to become involved in their communities.

### **You can share the joy of summer with your sponsored child by writing to:**

- **Share what summer looks like where you live**
- **Ask about what summer looks like where they live**
- **Share details of how you are spending your summer (going on vacation, sending your kids to camp, going to the pool, or some other fun plans)**
- **Ask how they are planning to spend their summer months**



Summer is also a good time of year to send your sponsored child either a monetary or physical gift to let them know you are thinking of them.

More information on writing to your sponsored child or sending them a gift can be found by going to [pearlsbuck.org/sponsor-a-child](https://pearlsbuck.org/sponsor-a-child).

Thank you for the life-changing support you provide your sponsored children and their families. Writing to share your life with your sponsored child and learn about theirs is a worthwhile and meaningful way to take an extra step toward Pearl S. Buck International’s mission of bridging cultures and changing lives! 🌍