



Making a Difference in Vietnam

Over the last 30 years, Pearl S. Buck International Vietnam has never stopped supporting disadvantaged children there. This has made a world of difference to children in seven orphanages, many of whom are sent there because their parents cannot care for them due to financial problems or health issues, and many of whom have HIV. Because of this support, these children have opportunities for a better future and to achieve their dreams instead of being held back by poverty and many disadvantages.

The Child Sponsorship program is the main way Pearl S. Buck International Vietnam cares for these children. They provide monthly nutrition support that helps the children improve their health, grow physically, and study more effectively. Pearl S. Buck International Vietnam also does activities and events that help the children strengthen their knowledge, develop their spiritual growth, and fill some of the emotional void of living without parents or family. Lunar New

Year, International Children's Day, summer vacation, and Mid-Autumn Festival are all opportunities for the children to have fun with friends, integrate into the community, and enjoy all the basic rights of a child.

Gifts and letters from generous child sponsors are invaluable. They provide a great emotional support so the children no longer feel unsafe or alone in the world, but instead, they know there is someone who cares about them.

The generosity of child sponsors and donors also allowed Pearl S. Buck International Vietnam to care for the health and well-being of the children. They conducted dental check-ups and provided treatment as necessary to all the children in the orphanages. Thanks to Colgate Palmolive, the children learned how to protect their oral health and received new toothbrushes and toothpaste to sustain healthy smiles.

Pearl S. Buck International Vietnam also supported the education of the children in the orphanage, providing

school supplies, books, and uniforms, as well as bikes to get to and from school. They also sent monthly scholarships to three children in the Teacher for Tomorrow Project to assist with tuition fees and accommodation, travel, and living expenses.

Child sponsors and donors also helped Pearl S. Buck International Vietnam teach the children life skills. Two of the orphanages have chickens that the children care for, which teaches them the value of hard work and is a source of nutritious food. Pearl S. Buck International Vietnam also provided the children with sex education and classes on skills such as teamwork, communication, and digital technology.

As always, the children cared for by Pearl S. Buck International Vietnam are sincerely grateful for the love and generosity of all the child sponsors and program donors, which gives these children a chance at a brighter future. This emotional and financial support is truly bridging cultures and changing lives. 🌍





Child Sponsors Have Been Changing Lives for Almost 50 Years

All the life-changing work done by Pearl S. Buck International is only possible because of the big-hearted generosity of child sponsors and program donors. Jean and John Goldfine are two examples of those who have made a difference—the Goldfines’ history with Pearl S. Buck International began as adoptive parents and child sponsors and now spans more than 40 years and has touched the lives of dozens of children.

In the early 1970s, Mr. and Mrs. Goldfine’s hearts were moved to adopt through the Pearl Buck Foundation. While waiting to adopt their Amerasian daughter, Anh, from Vietnam, they decided to sponsor Konokwan, a five-year-old girl in Thailand. With the help of the Goldfines’ sponsorship, Konokwan went to college as a basketball star. Thus, began the Goldfines’ 45-year relationship with Pearl S. Buck International. Over the course of almost half a century, they adopted one child and sponsored 23 others, each of which Mrs. Goldfine says she remembers. “Sometimes when I’m sitting quietly, I bring each to mind and enjoy thinking

about them,” Mrs. Goldfine wrote in a letter to Pearl S. Buck International. Anh arrived in Maine to live with the Goldfines in 1975 when she was seven years old. Mrs. Goldfine noted that Anh “didn’t speak English, but she was sure of herself, very composed and smart...it must have been a huge culture shock to come from Saigon and a large extended family to rural Maine...” Anh is now grown and living in California with a child of her own.

Currently, the Goldfines joyfully sponsor seven children (shown at right) through Pearl S. Buck International. They support three girls in the Philippines, a boy and two girls in Thailand, and a little girl in a Vietnam orphanage. Mrs. Goldfine wrote in her letter that her child in Vietnam “has learning difficulties and does not talk, but the housemothers who write me say that she is sweet and gets along well with other kids.” Mrs. Goldfine wrote of the “interesting” letters she gets from each of her children and expressed pride in their accomplishments, made possible by the Goldfines’ generous spirit.

It doesn’t matter that these children live half a world away and that she has never met them. “My reasons for being a Pearl S. Buck child sponsor come from the heart,” Mrs. Goldfine noted in an e-mail. “We are one planet, one community of human beings, and we are all responsible for each other. Kids are our future and our joy. When I get a letter from one of my kids, I am connected to a person and a family far away across the world. How interesting to hear about their customs and to share pictures with them. It’s a small world, and we have to be connected and live as one community.”

“I am blessed to have these children in my life,” she noted. “It means a lot to me to be able to make some difference in the world.”

Pearl S. Buck International is grateful to the Goldfines and all child sponsors and donors for their generosity. Experience for yourself the joy that changing the life of a child can bring. Learn more about child sponsorship at pearlsbuck.org/sponsor-a-child 

