Xu is a student at the Chongshi Girls’ School in Zhenjiang, China, where Pearl S. Buck was a student and later a teacher. Xu began her studies there three years ago and is grateful that her teachers have trust in her academic abilities and take her seriously as a student—it has encouraged her to strive to be at the top of her class and to achieve academic excellence. But things were not always that easy. Her high school studies were interrupted when she unexpectedly fell ill and had to be hospitalized in Nanjing. She recalled her childhood as simple but happy. Never having experienced a setback like this illness, she began to feel that her parents didn’t understand her, became depressed, and stopped talking to them. They drifted apart, but over the course of two months in the hospital and a year of rehabilitation, her parents remained steadfastly at her side and exhibited patience and love. Through it all, she received financial and emotional support from her child sponsor. “Strangers who have never known each other are closely linked by Pearl Buck’s organization,” Xu noted. While she worked hard on her recovery, her sponsor’s financial support waited for her back at school. Knowing that the gift of an education was waiting for her, Xu made a goal to strive for full recovery. “You are on the other side of the ocean,” she wrote of her sponsor, “and although I don’t know what you look like, I still want to thank you for your help and support.”

Becoming sick taught Xu what it meant to struggle—but also what it meant to persevere and succeed, thanks to the loving support of her family and the generosity of her Pearl S. Buck International child sponsor. “Maybe I can’t choose my origin, but I can decide my future,” she wrote. “Maybe I have no talent, but I have a dream. I will use my life to prove that I can’t let down those who care about me. Sometimes we live not for ourselves, but for those who love us.”

Xu was inspired to work hard and overcome one of her greatest obstacles because she knew her child sponsor was waiting for her to return to school. Thank you to all the child sponsors and program donors for the difference you make in the lives of children like Xu everyday through your love and generous support.
Celebrate Korean Culture at Pearl S. Buck International

Pearl S. Buck International is hosting an exhibit presented by Bucheon City, Gyeonggi Province, South Korea from October 3–November 30, 2019 at the Welcome Center, 520 Dublin Road, Perkasie, PA. 

_Lasting Relationships & Meaningful Impact of Pearl Buck & the Korean People_ is an exhibit that pays tribute to the rich cultural history of Bucheon City, Korea (a UNESCO City of Literature) and the deep and meaningful relationship between Pearl Buck and the Korean people.

Highlights of the exhibit include:

- A history of Korean life and culture from the 19th century until Korea’s liberation from Japanese colonial rule;
- The exciting and dynamic changes happening in Bucheon City from the time Pearl Buck spent there in the mid-20th century to the development of Korea as an IT power and Bucheon City as a UNESCO City of Literature;
- Displays of Korean traditional dress and other culturally significant objects.

In March 2018, an official delegation from Bucheon City, Korea visited Pearl S. Buck International for the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding for future collaboration and cultural exchange between the city and Pearl S. Buck International. Bucheon City was designated a UNESCO City of Literature in 2017, the first in Asia and the 21st in the world. During her lifetime, Pearl S. Buck made important contributions to Bucheon City, which today hosts an annual festival in her honor. The Pearl S. Buck Memorial Hall now stands on the former site of her orphanage for war orphans and mixed-race orphans.

_Lasting Relationships & Meaningful Impact of Pearl Buck & the Korean People_ marks the beginning of the cultural exchange and collaboration between Pearl S. Buck International and Bucheon City. The purpose of the exhibit is to introduce people to Korean history and culture and to express the positive influence of Pearl S. Buck’s philanthropic spirit on Korean society.

For more information about the exhibit go to [pearlsbuck.org/exhibits](http://pearlsbuck.org/exhibits).