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[Hilltown, PA] FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Annual Living the Legacy Fundraising Breakfast Draws Crowd with Emotional Keynote, Inspirational Testimony

More than 140 people attended Pearl S. Buck International's annual Living the Legacy Fundraising Breakfast on Friday October 4, 2019 from 8-9 am in the Estate Pavilion on the grounds of the Pearl S. Buck House, a National Historic Landmark.

The highlight of the always-inspiring breakfast was an emotional keynote speech by Barbara Schmidt about her journey of becoming the mother of a mixed-race child through adoption. She shared about her adopted daughter and her sponsored children, all from Vietnam, and the systemic racism and micro-aggressions they have experienced as a mixed-race family, but ended on a hopeful note. "I'm just an ordinary person telling you our family's experiences bridging two worlds," she said during her speech. "You don't need to be a superhero with superpowers to do this. Small actions can inspire others. Sure, the world needs women like Pearl Buck, the big bridge builders. But it also needs small bridge builders," whose impact might not reach as far but are just as important. She thanked all the "big bridge builders and small bridge builders in the audience today" for their support for all of Pearl S. Buck International's programs that "keep Pearl Buck's vision alive, that we all get to know each other under our skin."

Also featured during the breakfast were testimonials by people who have changed lives or whose lives have been changed in a unique way by their involvement with Pearl S. Buck International's mission work. Janet Mintzer, President & CEO of Pearl S. Buck International, was featured as the final testimonial and recognized that hundreds of thousands of children and their families have been supported under her leadership the last 18 years. Mintzer is set to retire at the end of 2019. She also spoke about the vision she had for the future of Pearl S. Buck International when she first stepped through the front doors and still has to this day. "What I've experienced here is a kind of magic I've never experienced before," Mintzer noted. "It's the magic of people—people who care, people who donate, people who volunteer, people who want to appreciate other cultures and build better lives for children, people who love history, people who think of themselves as global citizens."

The Living the Legacy Fundraising Breakfast raises funds essential for continuing the stories and experiences, changing lives, and bridging cultures through Pearl S. Buck International.

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.

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