children in our program areas received school supplies i.e. pencils, rulers, and wooden color pencil sharpeners. Child Sponsorship allowed the children to stay in school and lightened the family’s financial burdens, enabling them to have more money to buy food and other necessities. In total 563 beneficiaries were served from the education program.

We continued to provide health services for HIV/AIDS affected children, Karen hill tribe children, Hmong hill tribe children and families in targeted program areas at Ubon Ratchathani, Mae Ramard, and Phitsanulok. The clean water project, which involved digging three drinking water wells and six general use water wells, was completely funded by a generous donor and provided drinking and general use water for 484 beneficiaries. In total, 772 beneficiaries received health services.

We appreciate all the support from child sponsors which provided a better quality of life for our children and families. Child sponsors helped provide continuous educational assistance in the form of school fees, lunch fees, transportation fares, uniforms, sport suits, bags, shoes, notebooks, and stationery to 323 sponsored children. In addition, 240 non-sponsored

nutrition, oral and dental health care. In total, 328 beneficiaries participated in our psycho-social programs.

Special cash gifts provided by child sponsors were so helpful and meaningful to sponsored children and their families. Because of these extra gifts, families had enough resources to organize birthday parties for their children, start small family businesses, and purchase special items that go beyond just the necessities. These funds are also used for future educational costs as well as for family emergencies.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you so much for your generosity and warmest support, which helps fulfill hopes and bring wider opportunities to sponsored children. I wish every day of the new year to be filled with success, happiness and prosperity for you!
As we approach Tet, our Vietnamese Lunar New Year, I am happy to share more about our programs which help disadvantaged children living in orphanages so that they grow healthy, educated, and strong.

Key to all we do is the monthly financial support to enhance the nutrition of the children living in 7 orphanages so that they can eat a diet rich with meat or fish and other nutrition that they would otherwise be denied due to the low subsidy provided to the orphanages by the government. Through good nutrition, the mental and physical health of the children are strengthened.

In the rainy season, the orphanages are at high risk of mosquitoes, which can bring deadly diseases. Because of this constant threat, 368 disadvantaged orphans were educated about mosquito prevention to assist the children from contracting mosquito-borne diseases. We were also grateful to be able to provide vaccine injections to 30 children this past year. Also key to good health, yet often ignored, is dental check-ups and treatment, and we were happy to have served 512 children in the orphanages with these services, while teaching the children about oral health and proper brushing.

The children in Birla Orphanage and Center No. 3 walk 1 to 3 miles to school every day. This journey, which can be hard on their little feet, was made easier by the donation of 117 pairs of sandals. The children’s feet are now protected and as they walk to school and play outside with their friends. We also provided 272 school-aged children with school supplies and school bags to ensure they are prepared and can focus on their studies and, thanks to generous donors, we continue to support the college education of 3 students who graduated from the orphanage.

Older teenage orphans living with HIV now have hope for employment with the continued success of our donor-funded copy shop and store established in 2018. These young adults are learning business skills for future employment and can hopefully conquer the stigma and fear of individuals with HIV that still exists in Vietnam.

The psychological development of all 559 children is always one of our biggest concerns. We help the children celebrate cultural holidays including Lunar New Year, International Children’s Day, and Mid-Autumn Festival. We also supported a summer trip to the beach to give the children the opportunity to have fun with friends, integrate into the community, and learn about Vietnamese culture. In addition, monthly cash gifts and letters sent from child sponsors were a great emotional support for the children. They no longer feel unsafe or lonely in this world, because they know that there is someone who they have never met before who is caring and supporting them. This year, 128 children received cash gifts from their sponsors.

Thank you for the wonderful things that you have brought to our disadvantaged children living in orphanages in Vietnam. We are confident that the lives of these children will be much better thanks to you. I am a perfect example of this, as I grew up in Birla Orphanage through the generosity of a child sponsor and the Pearl Buck program. On behalf of all the children, I send you our gratitude and wish you all the best. Happy New Year of the Rat in 2020!
Greetings for a hope-filled New Year from all of us here at Pearl S. Buck Foundation Philippines!

2019 was a year of igniting our vision of continuing to give hope to Filipino children. Out of 520 sponsored children, 60 began their college education. Fifty are freshmen or first-year college students. We are very fortunate that many of the child sponsors of these college-aged students agreed to continue to support their educational pursuits. Because child sponsorship typically ends once a student turns 18 and not all sponsors continue sponsorship through college, the Pearl S. Buck Foundation Philippines has launched a new program called PEARL (Perseverance in Education towards the Attainment and Realization of a Better Life). Students whose sponsorship has ended automatically become participants in this new program. We are proud to share that three sponsored children recently earned a silver medal and licensure in their professional teachers’ board examination.

As we focus on and emphasize the academic journey of all sponsored children, this year we were able to expand our after-school tutorial program to all areas we serve. The approach for our tutoring program includes one-on-one tutoring by college students and group tutorials led by licensed professional teachers. We vigorously track student promotion rates as a measure of our success and 100% of our sponsored students were promoted to the next grade level.

We were also pleased to host two international groups this year, the Filipino-American Association of Bucks County, and the Pearl S. Buck Cultural Tour. These personal encounters always impact our child sponsors as well as sponsored children and their families.

In addition to education for the children, we offered a seminar for parents about building good, effective relationships with their “Millennial” and “Generation Z” children. Another seminar addressed disaster risk reduction to prepare families for earthquakes, especially major ones, that could hit the Philippines and we provided basic disaster kits to each participant family.

Our health programs, which are significant continuous services, included dental outreach in partnership with the Filipino Chinese Dental Foundation, and a backyard gardening program for families who have persevered in developing backyard gardens continued to enhance the nutrition of their families.

Four new corporate partners supported our programs this year: RedLark Manila, who invited our sponsored children to a Trick or Treat celebration for Bulacan sponsored children, TaskUs, a fast growing outsourcing company in the Philippines, who sponsored a job orientation and training for our senior high school students, and ToyCon PH, who selected our sponsored children as a beneficiary of their 2019 Bi-Annual Toy Fair. JR Nutrition Services, also extended our current nutrition program for our severely malnourished sponsored children to additional families.

Thank you to all of our child sponsors and donors who made it possible for us to provide these many services and programs to our sponsored children and their families this past year! Through your support and education, the children have optimistic futures.
Pearl S. Buck Foundation Korea is dedicated to continuing the legacy and spirit of love which Pearl Buck left to us. We thank you for your support as we continue her work and wish you happiness and health in the new year.
China

Cai Wenjun, Chairperson, Zhenjiang Pearl S. Buck Research Center

The Pearl S. Buck Research Center, in Zhenjiang, Jiangsu, China, continued to promote and expand knowledge of Pearl S. Buck while fulfilling her humanitarian spirit through community and international programs and activities, using the Pearl S. Buck House and Cultural Park as a base for activities.

“Spring Sunshine above The Good Earth,” a collection of selected poems, calligraphy works, paintings, photography, and engravings about Pearl Buck, was published with more than 130 creators involved. Parts of the book were carefully selected, framed, and displayed at the international symposium so that guests from around the world would understand Pearl Buck’s wonderful work in Zhenjiang.

A series of other activities to promote Pearl Buck included a painting and international youth exhibit in April, a public welfare activity to help the disabled in May, and a recitation of the feelings of “The Good Earth” in English in the “English Corner” of the Pearl Buck Cultural Park in June. A volunteer public welfare activity was held in July, and in November, a “Pearl Buck Cup” table tennis tournament was hosted for students from six schools.

While scholarly research and community activities have been key to our success, we have been diligently working to popularize relevant content knowledge about Pearl Buck among students, inviting teachers from the School of Foreign Languages of Jiangsu University to compile Pearl Buck books suitable for primary school students. Also, Chongshi Girls School, where Pearl Buck used to study and teach, has assembled a research team to develop school-based courses and related reading materials about Pearl Buck.

A major focus in Zhenjiang continues to be on the education of disadvantaged students at Chongshi Girls’ School, through the Pearl S. Buck International Child Sponsorship program. In total, 44 students were sponsored last year, 19 graduated, and 100% moved on to a university. This is significant, because these students would not necessarily continue their education beyond 9th grade without the help of child sponsors. Most notable, both the valedictorian and salutatorian of the graduating class were sponsored children in the Pearl Buck program!

As we prepare for the Lunar New Year, we send our best wishes and gratitude to child sponsors who are making a difference in the lives of students at Chongshi Girls School. We also invite you to visit our beautiful city to visit the school, Pearl S. Buck House, and Cultural Park. 🏛️

More than 60,000 visitors were received, with foreign tourists increasing significantly, setting a record for annual and daily visitation. This was most evident at the Pearl S. Buck International Symposium, hosted to build the Pearl Buck brand, knowledge of Pearl Buck, and international relationships. A total of 65 abstract papers and speeches were submitted with over 100 scholars and delegates from South Korea, Italy, Germany, Vietnam, Thailand, the Philippines, and other countries in attendance. In addition to the symposium, other avenues of Pearl Buck research were coordinated, resulting in 38 applications, the selection of 20 funded research projects, and ultimately 11 prizes.
In terms of health development, our programs included co-learning sessions for parents and children to learn about balanced diets and how to work together to prepare a healthy meal. We also offered yoga classes for moms in the hope of relieving their stress from life and childcare. As for social-psychological development, this year, as with every year, we hosted two major events, a Lunar New Year celebration and a Christmas party with over 600 in attendance at each event. These festive events are always heart-warming and well-received, showing the community’s warmth toward the children and encouraging them to be positive and motivated.

Our educational programs included IT sessions for the children, self-exploration workshops, and career development lectures for teenagers, as well as learning sessions for parents covering topics such as parenting, photography, painting, arts and crafts. Citi Foundation continued its support by sponsoring basic financial training sessions and parent-child financial workshops for new immigrant and/or low-income families. We also organized financial empowerment workshops for professional helpers to assist families with financial difficulties.

We continue to train interpreters for on-site interpreting services which we offer to new immigrants. This year, we found out that many new immigrant children who lived in one parent’s home country before coming to Taiwan experienced difficulty in school. As a result, we developed a new one-to-one interpretation program for new immigrant elementary and middle school-aged children with limited Chinese language proficiency. The initiative provides much needed transitional support and has seen remarkable results.

This year, we also had more international exchanges. We were visited by scholars from the UK and university professors and students from Hong Kong and Japan. Among them, 40 students from Hong Kong Polytechnic University stayed in Taipei for 10 days, working with us on a service-learning project about new immigrants in Taiwan. These exchanges have broadened our horizons and minds.

We are grateful for everyone’s support and generous exchanges and sharing, which have made it possible for us to continue the mission of the Pearl S. Buck: healthy and happy growth for children in need; poverty alleviation and self-dependence for families facing difficulties.