



Country Director Gives Back After Being Helped by Pearl Buck



Nguyen Thi Hanh is the director of Pearl S. Buck International Vietnam (PSBIV). The mission of the organization is near and dear to her heart, as her journey from childhood to adulthood took her through the PSBI Child Sponsorship program.

Hanh grew up in Hanoi without knowing her father, and though her mother was loving and caring, they lived a poor life. The Vietnam War left her mother seriously ill, mentally unstable and unable to care for her daughter. Hanh was unable to go to school because she had to work with her grandmother to earn money to support the family. At nine years old, she went to live at Tay Dang Orphanage and later Birla Village, where the orphanage housemother lovingly cared for her. Hanh knew that she “must try hard to study and become a useful person for society in order not to betray her housemother’s love.” Hanh dreamed of becoming a special education teacher.

During her academic years, Hanh always strived to be the best, earning the title of “excellent student” for many years. She studied hard and passed the entrance exam for Hanoi

Pedagogical University, where she studied special education and in July 2008, officially became a kindergarten teacher. Despite her difficult childhood, she strove to overcome it and show that even disadvantaged children can achieve their dreams with hope and hard work.

Hanh never forgot where she came from, and the material and emotional support she and the other children received from generous individuals and charitable organizations, in particular the staff, sponsors, and donors of PSBIV. She remembered them visiting Birla Village when she was a child and dreamed of one day becoming a person like them—helping to alleviate the pain, loss, and disadvantages of children, like her, growing up in the orphanages. Hanh became a project officer for PSBIV in 2009. Since 2016, she has served as the Country Director of PSBIV, and with the generous support of child sponsors and donors, continues to nurture and care for orphans and differently-abled children living in seven orphanages. She pays special attention to activities for the children that promote the health, education, vocational training, psychosocial development, and community capacity building of the children she serves. Hanh has devoted herself to becoming a bridge between donors and children in need of help in Vietnam. She has traveled to the United States and many other countries to bring donors and sponsors closer to Vietnamese orphans in need.

The story of her life, starting in hard and humble circumstances and rising to personal and professional success, has planted a seed in the hearts of many of the children she works with who have a strong will and desire to better their own lives. Several of the children in the orphanage, with Hanh’s example and encouragement and the support of child sponsors and donors, have excelled at school, graduated, started jobs, integrated into community life, and built a brighter future for themselves. Pearl Buck’s legacy touched the life of Hanh—as the recipient of generous child sponsors and donors who helped her build a better future for herself and inspiring her to become a part of that legacy of bridging cultures and changing lives as Country Director of Vietnam. Thank you to all the child sponsors and donors for making stories like this a reality! 🌍



Become a Project Donor

In addition to the generosity of child sponsors supporting the children of Vietnam, project donors answer the call to improve the quality of life for these children. These are several of the projects currently being undertaken in Vietnam that still need your support.



Transportation Support for Children with HIV

Location: Center No. 2 (HIV Center), Hanoi

Beneficiaries: 13 children with HIV

Background: In the past, the children in Center No. 2 could not go to school due to severe discrimination because they are HIV positive, but now are able to attend classes in the orphanage or schools in the community like other children. However, the school is miles away and the road is not suitable for walking, especially in extreme weather.

Goal: This project aims to keep these children in school by providing a bus for them to take. Because the schools are so far, the roads are unsafe, and the children get tired more quickly due to their health status, going to school by bus is the best way to make sure the children go to school and stay in school.



Mosquito and Insect Control and Prevention

Location: Tay Dang Orphanage, Birla Orphanage, Ha Nam Orphanage, Center No. 2, Center No. 3, Thuy An Orphanage, Dong Da Orphanage

Beneficiaries: More than 1,000 children

Background: In Vietnam, mosquitoes and other insects spread deadly diseases such as malaria, dengue fever, and yellow fever. The orphanages are at high risk of mosquito and insect infestation due to a combination of high temperatures and prime breeding sources such as cramped, unclean living spaces and stagnant water.

Goal: Provide mosquito-proofing and insect control within the orphanages to reduce the number of children who become sick, miss school, and end up in the hospital.

Swimming Training and Drowning Prevention Program

Location: Ha Nam Orphanage, Vietnam

Beneficiaries: 28 children

Background: It is not uncommon for Summer temperatures to soar above 100 degrees Fahrenheit in Vietnam. Because there is no access to a swimming pool or air-conditioning, the children often swim in the canals and rivers to beat the summer heat. Swimming in the river without adult supervision means that they are putting their lives at risk.

Goal: Because the children from the orphanage are swimming in the rivers and canals without adult supervision, it is essential to teach them how to swim and equip them with life jackets and first aid skills to help should they see someone else drowning. 🌐



To find out more about these projects and projects in other countries, visit [pearlsbuck.org/fund-a-project](https://www.pearlsbuck.org/fund-a-project). We cannot thank you enough for your generosity, which helps to bridge cultures and change lives of children every day!