Pearl S. Buck Foundation Taiwan-Taipei celebrated its 51st year of service in 2019. Their work was more fruitful than ever, thanks to the donations of so many generous people and the hard work of the board of directors and staff. There was a significant increase in the number of child sponsors and sponsored families and children: 356 child sponsors contributed to the support of 209 families and 387 children.

The foundation provided educational programs including 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. Pearl S. Buck Foundation also organized financial empowerment workshops for professional helpers to assist families with financial difficulties.

In terms of health development, programs provided included co-learning sessions for parents and children to learn about balanced diets and how to work together to prepare a healthy meal. As for social-psychological development, this year the foundation once again 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.

*The test of a civilization is in the way that it cares for its helpless members.*

PEARL S. BUCK

The foundation continues to train interpreters for on-site interpreting services offered to new immigrants. This past year, it was discovered that many new immigrant children who lived in one parent’s home country before coming to Taiwan were experiencing difficulty in school. As a result, a new one-to-one interpretation program was developed 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.

Last year the foundation also had more international exchanges. They 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 the foundation on a service-learning project about new immigrants in Taiwan.

All of these programs and services are made possible by the generous contributions and support of child sponsors and donors. Because of your kindness and generosity, Pearl S. Buck Foundation Taiwan-Taipei is able 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.
After nearly 20 years of service to the organization, Pearl S. Buck International President & CEO, Janet Mintzer, will be retiring on April 30, 2020. She recently reflected on her almost two decade-long journey at Pearl S. Buck International:

The story of Pearl S. Buck International over the past 19 years is another chapter in the legacy of the greatest storyteller, Pearl S. Buck. As I will retire as President & CEO at the end of April this year, in my 20th year of service, it is now a good time to share my story.

The very first time I drove down the driveway of the National Historic Landmark home of Pearl S. Buck, I had much to learn. I knew little about Pearl Buck and had never visited her home. My career had always focused on children, so child sponsorship along with the international/cultural aspect of the position were my attraction to the organization. Having the opportunity to change the lives of children and learn more about our world thrilled me.

It wasn’t long after settling into my new position that my passion for Pearl Buck and her home emerged. It was truly a dream come true for me to lead the restoration of her home through a 7-year, $2.8 Million project. I felt the same way after working to have a conservation easement placed on the property ensuring that it will be intact long after I am no longer a part of this good earth.

One of the most significant accomplishments of my tenure, probably not well known was transforming wholly dependent offices overseas into affiliated organizations governed by local Boards of Directors with the ability to fundraise in their own countries. It was a process, but the results have been amazing in all cases.

To make a long story short: my legacy here was built on love, passion, hard work, and the support of many people. I thank you for being a part of my legacy and for helping to successfully end my chapter in the history of Pearl S. Buck International. Although I am stepping down from direct leadership, I will always be passionately involved in advocating for this institution and continuing the legacy of Pearl S. Buck in one way or another. I hope you will do the same.

With sincere gratitude,

Janet Mintzer