Yuwen has been a student at Chongshi Girls’ School for three years. When she first started, she was initially impressed by Pearl S. Buck’s life experience and great achievements in literature but didn’t think about how Pearl Buck’s legacy of helping children in need would affect her own life until she was sponsored through PSBI. Last year, she had the opportunity to travel to the United States with a group from the school. Yuwen stayed with a host family who, she said, “treated me as their grandchild, took me to experience local life, and held a party for me. I felt so happy.”

The school trip included a stop at the Pearl S. Buck International headquarters in Bucks County, PA, where Yuwen got to meet her sponsor, “a kind lady,” she said. “At first, I was a little nervous, but she was so nice that I wanted to share my school life, my studies, and my dreams with her. She kept encouraging me to work hard and pursue my dreams.”

Yuwen considered it an honor to visit the Pearl S. Buck House and estate, the place where Pearl Buck lived as an adult and carried out her writing and humanitarian, intercultural, and education legacy. “I could not help but have a solemn and sacred feeling,” said Yuwen. “It felt like I was a time traveler—one minute, I was in China, the place where Pearl S. Buck grew up and studied as a little girl and the next minute, I was in the United States, the place where Pearl S. Buck wrote many of her great works, committing herself to helping children and women.”

Getting to attend Chongshi Girls’ School and being able to visit the Pearl S. Buck House in the United States have been life-changing opportunities for Yuwen. “Now I am back in China, working hard to prepare for my university entrance exam. I feel motivated with so much help and care from my family, my sponsor, my host family and Pearl S. Buck International. I am really grateful to those who help me.”

Thank you to all the child sponsors whose generous support helps children like Yuwen have the opportunity to go to school, to get an education, and to follow their dreams. 😊
Growing up in China, Pearl S. Buck experienced many epidemics. She wrote: “When an epidemic was raging, which was every autumn during my childhood, we never even used eating utensils until they had been placed in briskly boiling water.” She and her family were familiar with taking extreme precautions, just as we all are doing today with the coronavirus. Perhaps most importantly, she did not just experience epidemics—she survived them.

She survived them time and again and went on to help so many, especially the most vulnerable—just as you all do through your generous support as child sponsors.

As a non-profit, Pearl S. Buck International relies on the generosity of our many supporters to carry on Pearl’s legacy of bridging cultures and changing lives. As the coronavirus pandemic continues to spread, all non-profits, including Pearl S. Buck International, have become vulnerable. All aspects of Pearl Buck’s legacy have been impacted:

As you are already aware, the children in our sponsorship program and their families have been greatly affected during this global crisis. Many of them are under strict shelter in place orders with extreme limitations on their movement. Already living in abject poverty, they are now unable to work, and many cannot put food on their table.

At our headquarters in Bucks County, PA, we would normally be preparing to inspire thousands with Pearl Buck’s story through tours of the historic and beautiful Pearl S. Buck House. But this year, the house and gift shop are closed until further notice, and group tours and wedding receptions scheduled into the late spring and summer have been postponed.

Two of our most well-known and beloved spring events, Woman of Influence and Taste of the World, cannot take place when planned. Not only are these community-building events that share Pearl S. Buck’s legacy, they provide crucial support for Pearl S. Buck International to carry out its mission and work.

Pearl S. Buck showed us that together we can get through this challenging time. She also left a powerful legacy as an author, humanitarian, and advocate for the rights and welfare of marginalized people, especially children. We are so grateful for everything you already do for us—if you would like to help us continue to do the good work we do, you can make a donation at www.pearlsbuck.org/difference.