

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Pearl S. Buck International Partners with Charities
With Shared Goal of Helping Better the Lives of Children Around the World**

Pearl S. Buck International, in an effort to expand the cross-cultural and life-changing legacy of its humanitarian and activist founder Pearl Buck, is announcing new partnerships with two Montgomery County-based mission-oriented entities—the non-profit charity Chariots for Hope, which works in Kenya, and Bethlehem Baptist Church in Spring House, whose senior pastor, the Reverend Charles W. Quann, is a Pearl S. Buck International Board member. In an age when the COVID-19 pandemic has led to a greater humanitarian crisis for children in need around the world, Pearl S. Buck International is joining forces with these like-minded organizations to bring help and hope to even more children and families than ever before.

Pearl S. Buck International carries on Pearl Buck’s legacy of bridging cultures and changing lives through humanitarian aid, intercultural education, and historical tours of the Pearl S. Buck House, a National Historic Landmark.

Pearl S. Buck was a writer, activist, and humanitarian. She was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in Literature for her novel, *The Good Earth*, and the Nobel Prize in Literature for her body of work. Ms. Buck used the spotlight on her to shine a light on the plight of marginalized people everywhere and to advocate for the civil rights movement in the U.S. She also founded Welcome House (the world’s first international biracial adoption agency) and established The Pearl S. Buck Foundation (now Pearl S. Buck International) to provide international humanitarian aid. Ms. Buck’s groundbreaking words and work paved the way for greater international and intercultural understanding. They also provided life-changing aid for countless impoverished children. Pearl S. Buck International currently supports impoverished and marginalized children in China, the Philippines, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, and Vietnam through the generosity of child sponsors and project and program donors.

Chariots for Hope was founded in 2009 to provide for and nurture vulnerable and orphaned children in Kenya. What started as two children's homes has now grown to two babies' homes and six children's homes that serve and care for over 830 children. The staff at the homes not only care for the physical needs of the children but their emotional needs as well. Just like at Pearl S. Buck International, Chariots for Hope's goal is to help children break the cycle of poverty, with education the most important tool to make that happen. Staying in school and completing their education is the key to these children being able to build a better life for themselves and future generations.

The leadership and congregation of Bethlehem Baptist Church sponsors the Ogada Children's Home, one of the orphanages operated by Chariots for Hope, through donations toward operating costs and child sponsorship. Bethlehem Baptist Church also makes biennial trips to Ogada to meet with the children and staff and assist with any necessary repairs or improvements to the facilities. In addition to sponsoring children, the Bethlehem Baptist congregation also supports projects such as buying a cow and other livestock and raising the funds to install a rainwater catchment system.

One of the first collaborations planned for Pearl S. Buck International's new partnerships is to support raising funds for a playground for the children living in the Ogada Children's Home. Future collaboration is planned to include supporting the sponsorship of children living in the Ogada orphanage.

"In the true spirit of Pearl Buck and her passion for lifting children out of poverty through education," noted Stephanie Saveriano, International Programs Director for Pearl S. Buck International, "this partnership will not only be a bridge of Western and Kenyan cultures but will help vulnerable children receive the education they deserve so they can lift themselves out of poverty and make a better life for themselves and their families."

To find out more about the Ogada Children's Home Playground Project or to make a contribution, go to <https://pearlsbuck.org/fund-a-project/playground>.

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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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