Ngoc and her older sister were abandoned by their parents as very young children before being taken in to live in Tay Dang Orphanage—Ngoc was only two years old. When she first came to the orphanage, she looked so piteous and pitiful. In the beginning, Ngoc and her sister were so shy and scared that they cried all day and called for their father.

Since then, the two sisters have been cared for lovingly by the housemothers. Eating and sleeping better helped Ngoc to get healthy and grow strong. Thanks to the sincere love of the housemothers and her foster siblings, Ngoc quickly became accustomed to the living environment of the orphanage.

Tay Dang Orphanage has been supported by Pearl S. Buck International for over 30 years. With the sponsorship and support of donors and child sponsors, Ngoc and many other children get to live in beautiful houses with housemothers in a safe environment filled with love. Since she came to the orphanage, Ngoc has grown up healthy, obedient, and agile, blossoming into a beautiful young lady. She is a very gifted dancer and singer. Taking part in social events helped her feel more active and confident about better integrating into the community. Currently, she is in Grade 8 at Tay Dang Secondary School. Every day, she rides her bike two kilometers to school, where she studies hard to achieve good grades. She has won the title of Advanced Student and Good Student with Good Behavior over her seven years of school. She hopes to one day fulfill her dream of being a teacher.

After coming to the orphanage, Ngoc became sponsored through Pearl S. Buck International—her sponsor family not only supports her both physically and mentally but also encourages her to overcome obstacles in life. They exchange encouraging letters that create an intimate bond despite living on opposite sides of the world from each other. Ngoc is also grateful for the cash gifts from her child sponsor, which she has set aside in a savings account for tutoring classes to help her improve her studies and also for the future once she leaves the orphanage. Ngoc understands that the best way to help herself and repay the love and care of her dedicated housemothers and her respected sponsor is to study hard, do well in school, graduate, and make a successful career for herself.

During her 11 years living in the orphanage, Ngoc has benefited and learned a lot from PSBIV projects—learning IT, practicing life skills, and preventing COVID-19, all made possible by generous donors. Both the spiritual and material support from child sponsorship have made Ngoc more confident, feel more loved, and become more determined to make something of her life and achieve her goals. With the great support of PSBIV and her child sponsor, Ngoc will certainly have a successful future. 

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." — Nelson Mandela
Pearl S. Buck International leadership has announced the hire of Sarah Norris as the organization’s new Development Director.

Norris brings a wealth of fundraising and networking experience within both corporate and non-profit entities with expertise in the nonprofit, health care, and destination event planning sectors.

Norris graduated from Loyola University in Baltimore with a B.A. in Communications with a specialization in Public Relations. She began her career in sales as a medical device consultant support associate with DuPuy Synthes and as Chief of Staff for The Advisory Board Company in Washington, D.C. She then honed her nonprofit expertise representing the Muscular Dystrophy Association and The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society in the Washington, D.C., New York City and Greater Philadelphia markets overseeing key fundraising campaigns and corporate development.

Norris comes to Pearl S. Buck International directly from ACCESS Philadelphia, a nationally recognized brand within the corporate event planning and destination management space, where she served as Director of Sales for the past eight years. She was responsible for sales and business development in both the Greater Philadelphia and Washington, DC markets.

As Development Director for Pearl S. Buck International, Norris will lead fundraising and networking efforts including spearheading annual fundraising events such as Taste of the World and Living the Legacy, providing outreach to and cultivating the organization’s donor base, and planning special and annual events such as the Woman of Influence award ceremony and the ribbon-cutting and grand opening of Pearl S. Buck International’s newly renovated Conference and Event Center, scheduled for early spring 2021.

“We are thrilled to welcome Sarah to our team,” said Anna Katz, President and CEO of Pearl S. Buck International. “We know she will be an integral part of our efforts to grow and expand our brand and outreach and look forward to her contributions to helping Pearl S. Buck International continue the cross-cultural, humanitarian, and educational legacy of Pearl S. Buck.”

“I am incredibly inspired by the passion and legacy of Pearl S. Buck and the excellent work of this Pearl S. Buck International team. I am equally honored to serve in this important development role and look forward to building authentic, meaningful relationships with our donors and constituents,” said Norris.

Sarah is very excited about meeting our donors and can be reached at snorris@pearlsbuck.org.