

Reaching Out and Giving Hope In Taiwan

January and February 2020 were busy travel days in Taiwan, as usual, as people prepared for and celebrated the Lunar New Year. Given that Pearl S. Buck Foundation Taiwan-Taipei (PSBF TT) employees, interpreters, and clients—economically-disadvantaged families of new immigrants and their children—were more likely to meet international travelers, PSBF TT responded to the burgeoning COVID-19 pandemic by checking one by one where they'd been and who they were in contact with during the New Year holiday. Workers learned self-management skills and shared disease prevention information with the families and kids served by the Foundation.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the Foundation was forced to cancel an annual tradition for the families they serve. Since 2006, the Foundation has organized a Lunar New Year gathering for around 700 people, including nearly 400 kids. Everyone looks forward to this annual event where they enjoy a variety of hot dishes and take home *red envelopes* (monetary gifts in Chinese culture), New Year presents, and scholarships and grants for the children. As the pandemic worsened, the decision was made to instead give out meal vouchers to the families for local chain restaurants. At any time of the year,



"Only a life lived for others is a life worthwhile." - Albert Einstein



they could choose either to take the whole family to the restaurant to enjoy a hot pot or other nice dishes or to take their favorite food home.

Due to the pandemic, some parents were forced to work fewer hours or became unemployed, making it even more financially challenging for these families who already struggle with economic hardship. Some sponsors discontinued their sponsorship as they, too, were financially impacted by COVID-19. PSBF TT staff and volunteers strongly believe that even with greater challenges, care for the children should remain unaffected. They worked harder to promote their services and looked for resources to give the general public a better understanding of the difficulties and urgent needs faced by disadvantaged new immigrant children. They discovered there was still a lot of love in society, as many of their small donors joined the sponsorship program to support the kids' future.

Pearl S. Buck Foundation Taipei, Taiwan continues to collaborate with its colleagues at Pearl S. Buck International and the branches in Vietnam, Thailand, the Philippines, and South Korea to create a synergy of engagement and support especially during these difficult times. The staff and volunteers at Pearl S. Buck Foundation Taiwan-Taipei also hope to work together with all of those who care, fighting the pandemic with the greatest power—love. 🌍

Springtime Blooms at Pearl S. Buck International



With the flowers in Pearl S. Buck’s gardens starting to bloom and the world beginning to open up again thanks to the Covid-19 vaccine, spring is the perfect time to come visit Pearl S. Buck International.

The Pearl S. Buck House National Historic Landmark is open for tours six days a week—tour sizes are limited to five guests in order to properly social distance and health and safety protocols such as mask wearing are followed, but the experience of seeing where Pearl Buck lived and the nearly intact museum collection documenting her cross-cultural and humanitarian life and legacy, as well as learning about her writing, her family, her humanitarian aid, and her social justice activism and advocacy are the same. After a tour, take a walk around the beautiful gardens, stop into the Gift Shop, or visit the Awards Room exhibit, where Pearl Buck’s many medals and citations, including her Nobel and Pulitzer Prizes, are on display. For tour times and prices, go to <https://pearlsbuck.org/takeatour>.

While here, you may notice not everything is the same—part of the Pearl S. Buck International Welcome Center is being renovated and transformed into our new, updated Conference and Event Center.

With a grand opening scheduled for late spring, this space will be a community hub for special family events, business and school reunions, retreats, and meetings, and intercultural discussion and education through workshops, panel discussions, High School Global Leadership sessions and fundraisers, and Welcome Workplace intercultural competency training seminars.

For those of you still not comfortable or able to go out in public settings due to coronavirus concerns or those of you who live far and wide—we still invite you to “visit” us! Interested in our exhibits and Pearl Buck’s devotion to human rights and social justice causes? Our website is home to several virtual exhibits, which will be joined by a new exhibit at the beginning of April on Pearl Buck’s advocacy for women’s rights and gender equality. These exhibits can be found at <https://pearlsbuck.org/exhibit-gallery/exhibits/>.

Pearl S. Buck International is also happy to offer a virtual Taking Action Tour, guided by a live facilitator. This virtual tour is currently offered to groups but will be available on an individual ticket basis in the near future. Check out <https://pearlsbuck.org/takeatour> for upcoming details.

Whether in person or online, we look forward to seeing you here soon! 🌐