



## Orphan Finds Support and Success Through Child Sponsorship

Van Cuong was born in Hanoi, the capital of Vietnam. For every child, their first happiness is having both parents. In the early years of Van Cuong's life, he enjoyed this as well but he lost his beloved father in a devastating accident at work. The difficulties and burdens of raising and supporting a family fell on his mother. In 2013, at the age of nine, he was welcomed into Birla Hanoi Children's Village, operated by Pearl S. Buck International Vietnam.

Here he started a new life with the big Birla family. In his house there, there was only one foster mother for 16 siblings ranging in age from kindergartener to college. In the first days at the orphanage, everything was strange and new to him, thus Van Cuong was quiet, shy and said few words. He was also dealing with the emotional trauma of losing his father. He gradually got accustomed with his new living environment and with his foster siblings and housemothers. Despite his poor academic performance in school, he was always a very obedient, well-behaved and hard-working boy.

Birla Orphanage is one of seven orphanages supported by Pearl S. Buck International. With the sponsorship and support of donors and philanthropists, Van Cuong and many other children get to live in beautiful houses with housemothers in a safe and sufficient environment filled by love. Van Cuong was sponsored in January 2014. The support he received from his child sponsor encouraged him and made him more optimistic and confident.



Encouraging letters and monthly cash gifts have created such an intimate bonding between two strangers who live far away from each other, but are now close at heart.

The love and caring of his sponsor and dedicated housemothers have been a huge encouragement for Van Cuong to put in more effort into his learning. From 4th to 6th Grade, he always achieved the Excellent Student title at school. Because he was hard-working and intelligent, he often received compliments from teachers and administrators at school. In 7th Grade, with the psychological changes of puberty, his studying took a hit, but thanks to the caring and encouragement of his housemothers and help from his foster siblings, Van Cuong

tried his best and progressed again at the beginning of 9th Grade. From then on, he continued with a good academic performance. In the last academic year, he obtained the title of Excellent Student once again. At present, he is studying in 12th Grade. During his 3 years at high school, his performance has been outstanding, hence he is often selected by the teachers to participate in the Excellent Students Competition in Math, Physics and Chemistry. Apart from his remarkable academic achievements, Van Cuong is so energetic, active and dynamic. At school, the boy always enthusiastically participates in all extra activities and clubs to get more experience and skills. In the orphanage, Van Cuong is a leader in taking part in programs and activities which are held by the orphanage and Pearl S. Buck International. His goal is to enter FPT University after graduating from high school. Van Cuong is trying his best in this 12th Grade year to achieve his aspirations.

Van Cuong has achieved so much and grown into a confident young man thanks to a lot of great caring, encouragement and support through letters, photos, or small gifts given by his child sponsor. Knowing someone on the other side of the world cares for and supports him is a huge motivation for him to overcome obstacles in life. He is motivated to pursue his aspirations, achieve his goals and become a helpful citizen in the future. Van Cuong's current achievements and the efforts and achievements of all the other children are Pearl S. Buck International 🌍

**Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.**

**NELSON MANDELA**

# PSBI Holiday Events Return Next Month

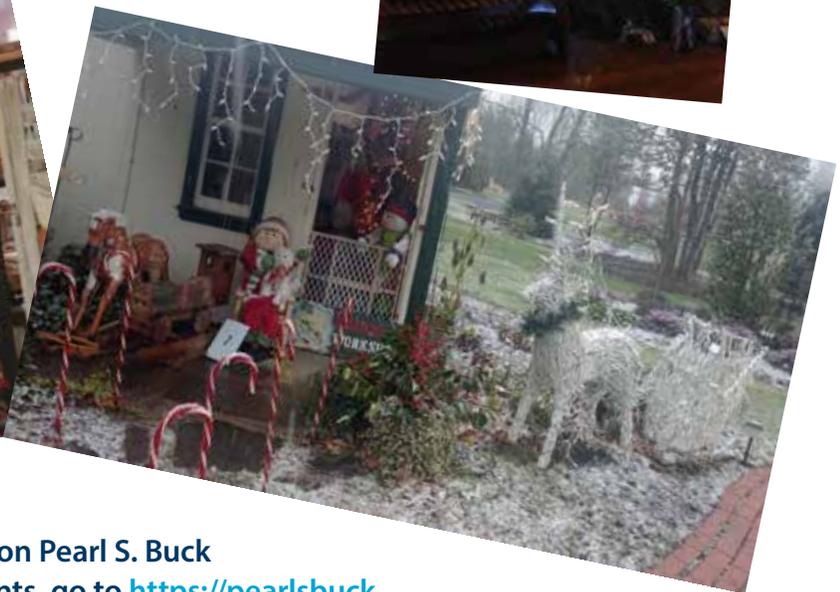
The winter holidays are fast approaching, bringing with them the return of Pearl S. Buck International's beloved holiday traditions, **Festival of Trees** and the **Holiday Craft Show**.

Each year during the **Annual Festival of Trees**, the rooms of Pearl S. Buck's iconic Bucks County stone farmhouse come alive with the glow of holiday decorations. The event showcases beautiful trees and vignettes designed by Bucks County's best artists, decorators, and local community groups to convey the spirit of Pearl S. Buck's legacy as an author, humanitarian, and activist. Visitors have the opportunity to vote for their favorite display. This year, Pearl S. Buck International is thrilled to

treat guests to a new exhibit displayed throughout the Pearl S. Buck House of original artwork by renowned artist Anna Marie Magagna, created to illustrate Pearl S. Buck's children's book, *Christmas Miniature*. Festival of Trees remains one of the most unique and historic holiday traditions in the region. It will run from November 16, 2022 through January 8, 2023.

The **Holiday Craft Show** has been a Bucks County tradition for almost three decades. Enjoy a unique shopping experience at this high-end craft show which offers jury-selected gifts, decorations, food, jewelry, apparel, and more from professional crafters, artists, and chefs. The Holiday Craft Show is the perfect place

to find an array of amazing holiday gifts for your family and friends. The Holiday Craft Show is produced by the Pearl S. Buck Volunteer Association, and proceeds from this event go to support the work and mission of Pearl S. Buck International. This year, this annual tradition will run from November 25 through December 4, 2022. Hours are 10 am-4 pm daily. Admission is \$5, and includes \$1 off a tour of the Pearl S. Buck House. 🌐



For more information on Pearl S. Buck International's holiday events, go to <https://pearlsbuck.org/events/holiday-events/>

