

## Successful Pig Project Provides Food and Extra Income to Families in Thailand

In response to a shortage of food and income during the Covid-19 pandemic, Pearl S. Buck Foundation Thailand partnered with Pearl S. Buck International and generous donors to launch a pilot program to address these concerns. The participants were families of 20 sponsored children struggling against poverty in Ban Nong Luang Village, Mae Ramard District, Tak Province, who were given black pigs to raise to ensure they had enough protein to eat, help reduce the families' food expenses, and enable each family to have a source of extra income for the purchase of other necessities. With the success of the initial pilot, eventually this project will scale-up to include another 30 households.

The pilot program involved meeting with village and teacher representatives, selecting the sponsored children's families for participation, providing advice and assistance to the families as they learned how to care for their pigs, having the families meet with district livestock officers for instruction on raising the pigs, and purchasing the pigs and pig food for the families.

Thanks to the resounding success of this pilot program, 20 sponsored



children's families and 252 family members had enough food to eat during the hard times of the pandemic. They gained lots of experience, knowledge, and skills in pig-raising for food security and earning extra-income from selling the grown pigs. In addition, children and their families had more time together as they shared in the tasks involved in raising the pigs.

The children and their families learned valuable skills not only for raising pigs but that can be advantageous to alternative occupations in the future. Another positive outcome is that the 20 pilot children will be able to contribute to the scaling up of the project by sharing what they've learned with the other children who will participate.

The benefits of this program go beyond food security and augmented income for impoverished and marginalized

children and families during a global pandemic; the positive outcomes help ease those challenges in everyday situations and have psycho-social and family benefits as well. Not only do the children and parents spend time together caring for these animals, dedicating their time usefully to pig raising also helps keep the children, teens, and young adults busy and away from the dangers of drugs and and inappropriate online media.

We are so grateful to everyone who has contributed to this program, providing a means for the children and families served by Pearl S. Buck Foundation Thailand to get on the road to becoming self-sustaining and lifting themselves out of poverty with dignity. You can support the expansion of this project at: <https://pearlsbuck.org/gifts/pig-farming-for-extra-family-income/>.



# Woman of Influence 2023 to Be Celebrated Next Month

Next month Pearl S. Buck International will honor Yvette Dapremont Bright, founder and President of Brighter Horizon Foundation, as the 2023 Woman of Influence at a dinner and award presentation on the grounds of the beautiful Pearl S. Buck Estate, 520 Dublin Road, Perkasi, PA 18944.

Originally established in 1978 as the Woman of the Year Award, the Woman of Influence Award honors women who follow in the groundbreaking footsteps of Pearl S. Buck, a Nobel and Pulitzer Prize-winning writer, activist, and humanitarian, who used the spotlight on her to shine a light on the plight of vulnerable and marginalized people everywhere and to advocate for the civil rights movement in the U.S.

An inspirational leader in the healthcare industry, Bright brings a holistic perspective built on 35 years of experience in operations, marketing, IT, human resources and finance to inspire actions leading to winning results. She recently retired from the role of Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Philadelphia-based Independence Blue Cross, where she was the first woman and business leader of color to have responsibility for the Commercial and Medicare P & Ls, with revenues exceeding \$6 billion.

Bright spent the first 10 years of her career with IBM in the United States and Europe. A native of New Orleans, Louisiana, she earned her Bachelor of Science degree at Tulane University's School of Engineering and a Master of



Business Administration in Healthcare from St. Joseph's University. She currently serves on several Boards of Directors including National Life Group, Independence Health Group, CSAA Insurance Group, Myers Industries (MYE), Cityblock Health, and Maven Clinic. Bright is now President of Brighter Horizon Foundation, based which she founded to assist first generation minority students from the Greater Philadelphia area to reach the goal of attaining a college degree or an associate degree in the trades – debt-free.

Throughout her entire career, Bright has mentored students and young professionals, providing invaluable guidance to develop their skills and unwavering support to facilitate success in their academic or professional careers.

Bright's work through Brighter Horizon exemplifies and puts into action Pearl Buck's belief that education is the most important tool for individuals, families, and communities to lift themselves up and achieve a better future.

She joins a long line of distinguished and accomplished women who have received the Pearl S. Buck Woman of Influence Award, including former First Lady Laura Bush, Pulitzer Prize-winning writer Toni Morrison, award-winning actress Sheryl Lee Ralph, TV personality Nydia Han, and former President of the Philippines, Corazon Aquino.

The always inspirational and uplifting Woman of Influence Dinner and Award Presentation will take place on Thursday, September 21, 2023 from 6-8 pm. A chairman's reception, requiring a separate ticket, will precede the main event. Tickets are available now at:

<https://pearlsbuck.org/woman-of-influence/>

Woman of Influence 2023 is sponsored by Independence Blue Cross, Univest, SEI, and Dr. Tony Coletta. Sponsorship opportunities are still available for this event. For more information, contact Susan Savage Farrand, CFRE at [ssavage@pearlsbuck.org](mailto:ssavage@pearlsbuck.org) or 215-249-0100 x130