



Providing a Foundation for Success Through Child Sponsorship

Thi Lam was born into difficult family circumstances. Because her father died while she was young and her mother was sick, Thi Lam and her two sisters went to live in Tay Dang orphanage when she was only five years old. When the sisters first arrived, they were so shy, sad and scared that they cried all day. Their bodies were thin because the family did not have the conditions to feed them well.

Since then, Thi Lam has been loved, taken care of very carefully, and encouraged by the dedicated housemothers. With enough sleep and food to eat, Thi Lam's health improved. The love, sharing, and mutual support of the housemothers and their foster siblings helped improve the mental and emotional health of Thi Lam and her sisters. Thanks to the daily activities and useful educational programs, Thi Lam gradually became more confident. Her sisters both attended college and Thi Lam is now in the 12th grade.

She is an active child and studies hard. For 11 consecutive school years, Thi Lam has achieved the title of Good Student. Although the orphanage does not have funds for her to attend extra classes, Thi Lam has made her greatest effort to keep up with her classmates. In both years of high school so far, Thi Lam received the title of Excellent Student, evidence of

her dedication to her studies. At school, Thi Lam participates in extracurricular activities and class programs very actively and enthusiastically. She is very talented in speaking and writing. Thus, she is the MC for many programs organized by the orphanage.

Her dream is to enter university after graduating from high school and majoring in Tourism or Marketing. She wants to travel to many places, discover many new things about nature, people, life and beautiful landscapes in Vietnam and many other countries in the world.

It was not just the support of Pearl S. Buck International Vietnam that helped Thi Lam succeed but also the support of her child sponsor, who encourages her to overcome life's obstacles. Encouraging letters exchanged between child and sponsor created an intimate bond between two strangers who live far away from each other but are now close at heart. The love, caring and gifts from her sponsor have always been a huge encouragement for Thi Lam to overcome her difficulties, try her best in her studies, and make a great effort to pursue her dreams in life.

The spiritual and material support of PSBIV in general and her sponsor family in particular have made her much more

confident, active and determined to achieve her goals. With her constant effort, the great support of PSBIV and endless love of her beloved sponsor, Thi Lam has been given a strong foundation to become a compassionate, helpful citizen and will certainly achieve her goals and be successful in the future.



High School Global Leadership Program Returns This Summer

Applications are now being accepted for Pearl S. Buck International's always popular **High School Global Leadership Program**. The two-week long session will take place on the grounds of the historic Pearl S. Buck Estate in Hilltown this summer, July 21-25 and July 28-August 1.

The Global Leadership Program, for high school students from grades 9 through 11, is designed to help teens and young adults become better students, college applicants, and global citizens and leaders. Over the course of each session, students learn leadership skills, teamwork, confidence and more as they work toward a common goal with peers from other schools and other religious, ethnic, and socioeconomic backgrounds.

Participants put their newly acquired skills to use working collaboratively on a service project of their choice, with proceeds donated toward Pearl S. Buck International's mission and work. Past service projects have included an intercultural fair, a family festival and bingo night, a light-the-night holiday decoration contest, and a "Miles for Meals" fun run around the grounds of the Pearl S. Buck Estate.

Many of our Global Leadership graduates go on to become Pearl S. Buck International volunteers, lead independent fundraisers for Pearl S. Buck International's humanitarian, cross-cultural, and educational work, and put their skills to use in college and toward future careers.

The application fee for the summer session includes two weeks of full day instruction by a PA state-certified teacher, supplies, daytime snacks for students, and a graduation event. More information and the application can be found at <https://pearlsbuck.org/intercultural-education/leadership/>.

Applications are being accepted through May 16.

