



News from the Field

From the Directors' Desks



January 2026

China



**Lu Haiping,
Sponsorship
Manager**



This past year, Chongshi Girls' School completed a newly constructed section of campus, including a new canteen and an indoor sports area. Chongshi and Mao-Yisheng School continued to implement programs, projects and activities throughout the school year for the children focused on healthy physical, mental, and emotional development, including visiting the Pearl S. Buck Museum and Pearl S. Buck Residence, a school sports meet and other sporting activities, and participation in the Pearl S. Buck Reading Club.



Leveraging the "Pearl S. Buck Bridge of Humanities," the "Mao Yisheng Bridge of Science and Technology," and the "Global Alliance of Girls' Schools Bridge of International Understanding," and building upon the existing base of 27 partner

schools (or institutions) across countries and regions, the school aims to provide more platforms and opportunities for mutual learning and exchange, establishing a mechanism for regular communication. The school has returned to its focus on encouraging international educational exchange, a core component of the students' education before Covid. The school has effectively promoted exchange projects such as



mutual faculty and student visits and joint curriculum development, laying a solid foundation for the school's further expansion of foreign cooperation and exchange practices. While organizing for teachers and students to go abroad, Chongshi is also looking to invite more international teachers and students to visit China and Jiangsu, injecting new vitality into the school's international development. The school has kept in close contact with schools in Spain, Germany and those in the area of Hong Kong, and Taiwan, and is looking to find a new sister school in the United States.

Chongshi Girls' School continues to support its students in all facets of their lives. The priority of all their projects and programs is to provide good opportunities for all the students to overcome their difficulties and have a comprehensive development of skills and help have a better life in the future.

Kenya



chariotsforhope



This past year marked another successful year of partnership between Pearl S. Buck International and Chariots for Hope's Ogada Children's Home, made possible by the generous support of donors and child sponsors.

Ogada's dorms were fully renovated with new windows, ceilings, and tiled floors— creating a safe, warm, and comfortable home where children can sleep without leaks, cold drafts, or injury risks.

Chariots for Hope was able to quickly address an urgent need by repairing and replacing girls' bathroom facilities, ensuring children now have a safe and sanitary place to use the bathroom.

In addition, many high school and college students were equipped with the technology they needed to succeed academically, providing over 40 laptops to high school and college students. Students celebrated graduations, were prepared to enter primary school, were supported through their exams, and enjoyed recreation days and educational field trips.

A variety of programs were implemented this past year. Trauma-informed educational camps at three Chariots homes helped adolescents and young men and women gain the healing, safety, and confidence to protect themselves against abuse. Ogada and the other children's homes invested in practical skill-building through activities such as cooking, cleaning, gardening, and environmental programs such as tree planting and Mazingira Day celebrations.

Leadership meeting and training took place as well. Managers, social workers, and national staff all gathered together in Kitui for a four-day leadership meeting to plan, collaborate, and learn.

Chariots for Hope also expanded its community care. 650 Christmas baskets filled with food and essential supplies were distributed to children visiting their guardians— providing meaningful support to their families during the holidays. Eye screenings were also provided to 800 people, including 500 community members and Chariots children. Eyeglasses were provided to those who needed them— representing meaningful progress in caring for the broader Kenya community.



Children received critical medical care and staff benefited from training on baby development and teenage health, while several homes navigated individual medical needs such as upcoming cataract surgery.

The children also enjoyed visits from local churches, schools, partner organizations, and sponsors who brought gifts, celebrations, and encouragement; several homes also participated in community performances and public events.



Korea



Taekmyung Kwon, Executive Director



Pearl S. Buck Foundation Korea (PSBFK) continues its work with multicultural families, the number of which increases each year. Therefore, PSBFK aims to identify social changes and explore integrated support plans in the areas of health, education, livelihood, and psycho-social care to protect the rights of multicultural families and children.

One initiative undertaken by PSBFK is the Human Rights and Multicultural Understanding Education Project, which aims to promote greater multicultural awareness within Korean society. The project engages married immigrant women who serve as multicultural understanding education instructors. Through several years of implementation, PSBFK has recognized that these women bring significant expertise and lived experience to their roles and play a vital part in increasing awareness of a multicultural society.

Despite their impact, they continue to face challenges related to the recognition of “multicultural understanding education instructor” as a formal profession and the ability to sustain long-term, stable careers in this field. PSBFK is actively working to support them in overcoming these challenges.

“Finding Hidden Planet” remains a popular and successful program. This program helps multicultural adolescents



overcome vulnerable economic and social conditions, increasing their self-esteem, recognizing their uniqueness as a strength, and discovering potential capabilities. This was achieved through relationship building, learning activities, bicultural exploration during a visit to Vietnam, and youth mentor training. This program was an extension of PSBFK’s successful “Motherland Tour” program which has operated since 2008. Other projects and programs offered to multicultural families over the course of the year included:

- Medical expense support for the children of multicultural families
- Scholarship offerings
- Online learning coaching
- Providing gifts for Chuseok
- Supplying clothing and meals for underprivileged children
- Provision of feminine care products
- Childcare support
- Residential improvement projects for single parent multicultural families
- Multicultural family communication improvement project
- Crisis support for undocumented immigrant children and immigrant women victims of domestic violence



The most successful project of the year was the Energy Plus Multicultural Youth Creative Talent Development Support. It targeted six students with outstanding talent in mathematics, science, and foreign languages. It provided scholarship support to enable them to stay in school and pursue their studies, opportunities to collaborate with each other and attend lectures and interviews with CEOs in the education industry, coaching to their parents to help support their children’s academic pursuits, and networking opportunities. The end results of this project were an improvement in the students’ scores, strengthening in their social-emotional competencies, and the easing of childcare burden for immigrant women by alleviating education costs.

Philippines



Teresita R. Latoza
Executive Director



Education remains the most challenging mission of Pearl S. Buck Foundation Philippines (PSBP). Students continue to learn both in-person and in online classrooms. PSBP's successful Tutorial Program is offered online and face-to-face in difficult subjects by the tutees (sponsored children) from college scholars as their tutors. The concept of "helping the young sponsored children by old sponsored youth" continues in PSBP communities.

The College Scholarship Program, like last school year, was another success; the number of sponsored children who are entering college is increasing. Last SY 2024-2025, we had 16 sponsored children graduate from high school, and 100% of them were able to continue their college education. SY 2024—2025 also saw 29 college graduates, some of whom are continuing on to medical school or law school. These graduates will become automatic members of the Pearl S. Buck Foundation Philippines, Inc.-Alumni Association (PSBP-ALAS), which was launched during PSBP's 20th Anniversary celebration in 2023. Through PSBP's education program, 100% of sponsored children were able to advance to the next grade level.



The Health Program continues to be important to sponsored children and their families. The Red Cross accident insurance has been renewed for all sponsored children and during the July Nutrition Month Celebration, 183 sponsored children learned about good nutrition and received vitamins.

November's National Children's Month celebration included a lantern-making class, art and sports activities, and a seminar for college students on how to apply for a job. Special health projects included dental and medical check-ups for sponsored children and their families.

The Christmas Gathering remained a personal encounter and camaraderie among sponsored children and youth and coincided again with the Sponsorship Program and Requirements re-orientation. 348 families received a "Noche Buena" package, a pack of food for each family for the



Christmas celebration. During the summer, PSBP conducted a teenage pregnancy awareness seminar to try to combat the high number of teenage pregnancies in the Philippines.

Several projects were implemented this past year, including a family life relationship workshop attended by fifteen PSBP-sponsored mothers of teenagers. PSBP continues to grow its partnerships with local schools, businesses, and other groups and organizations. Through PSBP's strong partnership with De La Salle University – Center for Social Concern and Action (DLSU-COSCA), 16 small-scale but important projects focusing on mental health and psychological well-being were offered, including a career path seminar, a cooking class, dental hygiene and medical check-up, mental health awareness training and mastering effective study habits seminar for teens, business planning, and more.

Taiwan



Franco Chen
Executive Director



Pearl S. Buck Foundation Taiwan continued its work with new immigrant families including the operation of service centers providing family members with welfare consultation, case management, multicultural advocacy, interpretation services, volunteer training, on-the-job training, and community resources.

In addition to its decades-long work in Taiwan, the Pearl S. Buck Foundation Taiwan has supported and witnessed the growth and self-reliance of many second-generation mixed-race youth. This past year the foundation organized a Youth Dialogue Session, allowing second-generation new immigrants to engage in self-reflection and value exploration through interactive board games and peer discussion.



On the same day, the foundation also presented scholarships in recognition of outstanding second-generation students currently enrolled in senior high schools, vocational schools, and universities. These awards honored their academic achievements and strong character over the past year.

Pearl S. Buck Foundation Taiwan also organized a Spring Festival Gathering aimed to bring warmth and a sense of togetherness to supported families during the festive season. Through the distribution of educational red envelopes and scholarships, the Foundation encouraged children to pursue their studies and helped them feel the love and support of society, fostering their growth in an environment filled with hope and care.



In addition to interpretation services for children and adults, Pearl S. Buck Foundation Taiwan once again offered job training sessions, including nail art and hairdressing workshops, to help new immigrant mothers convert their skills into actual income and entrepreneurial opportunities. Other workshops and training sessions included parent-child financial literacy and workplace experience camps for teens.



Thailand



Suntaree Rangkusone, Executive Director



This past year, Pearl S. Buck Foundation Thailand (PSBFT) implemented programs that focused on education, healthcare, economic empowerment, family strengthening, child protection, and community development, with the overarching goal of improving the quality of life of children and families in vulnerable circumstances.

Pearl S. Buck Foundation Thailand's key achievements over the year included:

- Scholarships, uniforms, and learning materials were provided to ensure children's continuous learning, reduce absenteeism, and lower dropout risks.
- Early childhood education support strengthened school readiness, while tutoring and mentoring programs helped children improve academic performance.
- Positive outcomes included improved self-confidence, higher school attendance, and strong feedback from parents and teachers on children's progress.
- Regular health check-ups, nutritional support, and awareness activities ensured children's physical and emotional well-being.
- Preventive education on communicable diseases (e.g., hand, foot, and mouth disease) and hygiene promotion, including the installation of proper washing facilities, contributed to healthier school environments.
- Psychosocial support services were extended to children and families, providing counseling and resilience-building in times of stress.

The impact of these programs cannot be overstated.

- 275 children received educational, health, and emotional support that enhanced their opportunities for success.
- Households and families became more resilient, with improved capacity to provide for and protect their children.

- Community partnerships with local stakeholders strengthened the support network for children and contributed to broader community development.

Pearl S. Buck Foundation Thailand's most successful project this year focused on improving the health and nutrition of 83 students at Ban Gud Ra-ngum School, helping ensure they are physically prepared for learning and age-appropriate development. By providing protein-rich chicken meat and eggs, the project supports children's growth while reducing food costs for families and the school. It also creates opportunities for additional income and equips families with practical skills and knowledge for future livelihoods.



Through collaboration with teachers, community leaders, and health volunteers, it was identified that many children were underweight and underdeveloped due to poor care from busy parents or elderly caregivers. This project trained families on how to raise hens, provided 300 hens for families and the school, and supplied necessary equipment such as coops and chicken food. PSBFT staff visited the school and families regularly to give them advice on hen raising and continuously monitor the growth and progress of hens through the one-year-project period. The project has been running successfully for months now, improving the children's health and providing extra income to families through the sale of the eggs. In addition to these practical results, the project has helped children and teens learn about responsibility by assisting parents and families in caring for the hens, helped them use their free time wisely to avoid drug addicts and social media hazards; and helped families develop stronger bonds by working together to raise hens.

Vietnam



Nguyen Thi Hanh, Program Director



This past year, Pearl S. Buck International Vietnam (PSBIV) served 488 disadvantaged children in seven orphanages (211 sponsored and 277 non-sponsored, including children with HIV, disabilities, and difficult circumstances). PSBIV provided monthly nutrition support to improve children's meals, boost their immunity, and provide energy for academic and physical development. Another project kept the children fed with delicious and essential nutritious meals even during storms when the orphanages lose access to food supplies due to flooding and damaged infrastructure.

PSBIV's Scholarship Aid program supported three students from disadvantaged backgrounds who excelled academically but struggled with the high costs of higher education. Monthly scholarships covered tuition, living expenses, travel, meals, and learning materials, easing financial burdens and allowing students to focus on their studies with greater confidence.

All 488 children took part in celebrations throughout the year such as Lunar New Year, International Children's Day, Summer Vacation, and Mid-Autumn Festival. These occasions, considered the most meaningful for Vietnamese children, not only enrich their spiritual growth, knowledge, and experiences but also create cherished memories with foster siblings.

This past year, Vietnam faced a period of great difficulty due to the outbreak of a new fatal disease, rising inflation, economic instability, and significant changes in national policies. For the children living in the seven orphanages, the situation was even more challenging, as they struggled with daily nutrition, routine activities, education, and access to healthcare. In addition, the prolonged recertification process caused interruptions to ongoing projects, creating further negative impacts on the children.

Amid these difficulties, PSBIV worked hand in hand with the orphanages to actively carry out meaningful programs designed to improve the lives of the children. The devoted efforts of housemothers and orphanage staff played an essential role, but equally important was the heartfelt support of sponsors and donors. Through their generosity—both material and emotional—PSBIV was able to provide the orphanages with essential supplies and useful programs, ensuring that the children continued to receive care, education, and opportunities for development despite the hardships.

This year, PSBIV's most successful project was food support for the children living in Birla Village in the aftermath of Typhoon Yagi. Typhoon Yagi, considered the strongest typhoon in 2024, swept over Hanoi, leaving not only physical damage but also an emotional impact on the children. In Birla Village, the whole orphanage got flooded as it rained heavily, taking several days for the flood water to drain. During the typhoon, the children read books at the orphanage library and played table tennis or badminton in house. On stormy days, going to markets to buy food is difficult and dangerous. PSBIV provided food support during and after the storm for 94 children so no one had to venture out and everyone stayed safe.

The foremost mission of PSBIV is to implement meaningful programs and projects that deliver practical benefits to disadvantaged children in Vietnam. Through these initiatives, children living with disabilities or hardships are given opportunities to grow in a supportive environment, receive quality healthcare, gain access to proper education, and build a brighter future. The ultimate goal is to help them break free from poverty, illiteracy, and both psychological and physical harm. This vision has always been the core commitment and heartfelt aspiration of PSBIV for Vietnamese children.



