



Nutrition Support Life-Changing for Children in Vietnam Orphanages

Pearl S. Buck International Vietnam (PSBIV) works with children living in orphanages there, implementing many useful and successful projects to support the nutritional needs of the children with whom they work.

The young and vulnerable children served by PSBIV all come from orphanages, children's village and centers for social sponsorship. They are orphans, abandoned, disabled children, children with HIV or those who come from very poor families who don't have enough clothes to wear and food to eat.

The government provides financial resources to the orphanages, however, this level of funding remains far below what is required to meet even the most basic needs of the children. It has become increasingly difficult amid the emergence of new infectious diseases, rising inflation, and Vietnam's ongoing economic challenges.

As a result, the orphanages face serious constraints in ensuring adequate nutrition, maintaining the children's health, and preventing illness, placing vulnerable children at greater risk of malnutrition and weakened physical and mental well-being.

Recognizing these urgent challenges, PSBIV provides a monthly nutrition subsidy for a total of 219 sponsored children. This support improves daily meals, enhances nutritional quality, and strengthens children's physical health and



resilience against disease. With the generous support of sponsors, the children will have access to more nutritious meals, fresh fruits for essential vitamins, and sufficient energy.

The monthly nutrition support plays a vital role in improving the daily lives and long-term well-being of disadvantaged children, addressing malnutrition, strengthening immune systems, and reducing vulnerability to illness and infectious diseases.

In addition, improved dietary quality supports healthy brain development, concentration, and learning ability, allowing children to perform better at school and participate more actively in daily activities.

Beyond the physical benefits, consistent nutrition contributes to the children's emotional and mental well-being. Knowing that their basic needs are met

gives children a sense of security and stability, helping to reduce stress and anxiety caused by food shortages. Through PSBIV's monthly nutrition support, disadvantaged children are not only nourished for today but are also given the strength, resilience, and opportunity to build a healthier and more hopeful future.

The core mission of PSBIV is to bring hope and healing to the most vulnerable children in Vietnam through meaningful and life-changing programs. These initiatives are designed to give disadvantaged children the chance to grow up in safety and dignity, to access education, and to imagine a future beyond poverty, illness, and hardship. For many of these children, PSBIV's support, made possible by the compassion and generosity of donors and child sponsors, is not simply assistance, it is the difference between survival and the opportunity to dream, to learn, and to heal from both physical and emotional wounds.

Tony Luna Starts Term as Board Chair



Pearl S. Buck International is pleased to announce that Tony Luna has been named the next chairperson of its Board of Directors, effective January 1, 2026.

For over 60 years, Pearl S. Buck International has carried on the humanitarian, cross-cultural, and educational legacy of award-winning writer Pearl S. Buck through international child sponsorship and humanitarian aid programs, public and community events and programming, exhibits, and tours of the Pearl S. Buck House National Historic Landmark Museum.

Luna brings more than 25 years of nonprofit leadership and a deeply personal connection to advancing Pearl Buck's mission. He first joined Pearl S. Buck International in 1998, serving 18 years across two terms, including nearly a decade as Vice President of Development. During that time, he strengthened the organization's financial foundation, launching major gift and planned giving programs, completing a \$2.8 million historic preservation campaign and a \$500,000 capital improvement initiative, securing one of the organization's largest

bequests, and representing the organization internationally, including media engagements in the Philippines.

Currently, Luna serves as Director of Philanthropy for the Catholic Foundation of Eastern Pennsylvania, guiding schools, parishes, and nonprofits in growing endowments through planned giving. He resides in Quakertown, PA, with his wife Anne and their three children. The Luna family sponsors two children in the Philippines through Pearl S. Buck International.

"We are all so happy to have Tony as our new Board Chair," said Pearl S. Buck International President and CEO Cheryl Castro. "His passion and years of experience with Pearl S. Buck International are going to bring a great perspective to the role and we look forward to an exciting year ahead."

In his role as Board Chair, Luna is joined by returning board officers Susan Berrodin, who is serving as Board Vice Chair, and Maxine Romano, who is serving another term as Board Treasurer. Emma Strausser joins them this term as Board Secretary. All board officers are serving a two-year term that began January 1.

A full list of Pearl S. Buck International's Board of Directors can be found at <https://pearlsbuck.org/about/board-and-staff/>

There's lots happening at Pearl S. Buck International this spring and summer — make sure to check out our Event Calendar!

<https://pearlsbuck.org/events/>

