



ROOTS of PEACE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Press Contact: James Faccinto
Full Complement Publicity & Creative
James@Full-Complement.com

ONE MOTHER’S DAY—TWO CONTINENTS—VIETNAM and USA
Roots of Peace CEO visits Landmine and Agent Orange Orphanage Victims

Saigon/HCMC, Vietnam—May 7, 2022— As war rages on in Ukraine, Heidi Kuhn, CEO, Roots of Peace, will take bold footsteps for peace in Vietnam on Mother’s Day to raise global awareness of the long-term effects of war on innocent civilians nearly 50 years after The Vietnam War ended.

“We face a grave crisis in Ukraine, and we cannot forget the long shadow that wars cast over future generations. As escalating threats of chemical warfare and nuclear weapons are discussed during Russia’s unprovoked invasion of Ukraine, innocent children will pay the price of war as clearly seen in Vietnam,” Kuhn said. “Based on Vietnam’s experience with continued injuries and deaths almost 50 years after the that War ended, Ukrainians can expect that the insidious Russian land mines and unexploded ordnance littering the battlefields will still be maiming innocent victims there in the **year 2072.**”

The Vietnam War ended on April 30, 1975, yet the legacy of war continues with hundreds of thousands of landmines and cluster munitions buried beneath the soil which has maimed or killed over 100,000 innocent footsteps long after the guns of war have been silenced. The tragic long-term effects of Agent Orange, an herbicide chemical deployed during the war to destroy forested areas, still causes major birth defects for children born today.

On Saturday, May 7, Kuhn will visit the children of Cu Chi orphanage and disability school to plant a symbolic Roots of Peace tree in former war-torn soils of Vietnam. Thousands of children are born each year with severe birth defects from the legacy of war. “As Mothers, we bear the gift of life for our children to walk the earth without fear of landmines beneath their tiny feet. There are an estimated 60 million landmines in 60 countries, and we must remove these seeds of destruction from our one Mother earth that we share,” stated Kuhn. “Vietnam represents the future of Ukraine, if war is not stopped.”

Frank Yih, Chairperson, Roots of Peace Asia, will donate \$5000 to the Vietnamese orphanage in the name of his late wife, Nancy YeNaNa. As a gift from China to Vietnam, this is a humble effort to bridge borders for peace among all nations.

Rotary International President Shekar Mehta will meet with Kuhn in Vietnam, to discuss the impact of war in Quang Tri province, former DMZ, where over 70% of the land remains contaminated by explosive remnants of war.

For over a decade, Roots of Peace has partnered with the Mines Advisory Group (MAG) to remove thousands of landmines on former battlefields and plant over 300,000 black pepper trees. The Roots of Peace *MINES TO VINES* program replaces the minefields with black pepper vines, and provides exports of spices to Morton and Basset Spice Company to be sold in the United States to increase income for farmers and heal the wounds of war.

Kuhn will also visit the Cu Chi Tunnels where families lived underground for years to avoid the bombs from the sky. As Ukrainian mothers live in bomb shelters fearing war, Kuhn hopes that her footsteps for peace may raise global awareness for the urgent eradication of landmines worldwide.

Heidi Kuhn is a founding member of the Stimson Center's War Legacies Working Group, whose members work together to address and alleviate the legacies of war in Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos.

Kuhn will return to the USA on Mother's Day to celebrate with her 4 Children and 6 grandchildren.

MORE INFO ON ROOTS OF PEACE

For the past 25 years, Roots of Peace has worked in war-torn countries around the world to remove the remnants of war, landmines and unexploded ordinances, and restore the land in order to rebuild peaceful communities for generations to come.

More than 500 million smallholder farming households across the world live on less than \$2 a day. Building a sustainable, regenerative source of income that gives families livelihoods and stability is one of the most pressing issues to be addressed in post-conflict countries. With the help of Roots of Peace, farmers are addressing the key challenges to increased income by applying modern technology and farming techniques that result in increased yields and sustainability.

The Roots of Peace "Mines to Vines" approach has impacted over one million farmers and families. By removing landmines and the remnants of war, Roots of Peace frees land held hostage by unrest. In Afghanistan, it has facilitated the export of fresh fruits, nuts and spices to markets around the world, contributing to the increase in Afghan agricultural exports from \$250 million in 2014 to over \$1.4 billion in 2020. Roots of Peace's award-winning methodology is rooted in building a business model for peace: providing market-driven solutions tailored to rural communities in war-torn lands and serving as a catalyst for industry-wide development across the world.

For more info and the chance to donate to Roots of Peace, click [here](#).

For more information, please reach out to James Faccinto at James@Full-Complement.com.