

# My Story



## A Place of Vision

Pearl S. Buck House Museum

By Sandy Cody, Volunteer

*"I have the feeling that they take something of her vision with them when they leave, ensuring that her legacy will continue. Her vision will prevail."*



One of the things I love most about the Pearl S. Buck House is that, impressive as it is, it doesn't feel like a museum. It is a home: warm and welcoming. It brings to life the story of a talented, energetic, woman who saw injustice and didn't turn away. Instead, she used her talent and energy to break through barriers and nurture understanding. I have always admired Ms. Buck, both as a writer and a humanitarian, but being in her home, seeing the objects that were part of her life, I see her as a human being.

As with many, my introduction to Pearl Buck was *The Good Earth*. I first read the book sometime in my teens and fell in love with the story of struggling Chinese peasants who battled obstacles more fearsome than their legendary dragons. The sweep of the story, the characters whose lives were so different from



**Keystone Fund Investment:** \$115,000

**Total Public/Private Investment:** \$2.8 million

mine but whose dreams were so much the same, taught me a lesson I've never forgotten. I went on to read other books by Ms. Buck, some set in China, some in other Asian countries, some in the United States. These stories are populated with

characters whose lives are as diverse as their settings, but it is always their humanity that drives the story.

The feeling of the Pearl S. Buck House is much the same as those stories. I've been a volunteer for about two years, not nearly as long as some (it seems this is a *job* no one wants to leave), but already it's an important part of my life. Before becoming a volunteer, I knew that Ms. Buck did more than write about the plight of people whose choices in life were restricted by the

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circumstances of their birth. I knew that she had founded Welcome House and that it had helped change the fate of many children born into seemingly hopeless situations. What I did not fully comprehend was that the legacy did not die with the woman. Pearl S. Buck International, the organization that evolved from Welcome House, helps to make sure that it goes on.

Hearing about lives that this organization has changed is inspiring, so inspiring that it would be easy to think of Pearl S. Buck as a superwoman. Walking through her home changed that for me. Imagining her with her husband and children, being a wife, a parent, a member of a community, I am reminded of one of her favorite quotes: "All, under Heaven, are one family." It's a message I'm proud to pass along to visitors to Ms. Buck's home, especially the many groups of schoolchildren who come. People nod in recognition when they hear this. I have the feeling that they take something of her vision with them when they leave, ensuring that her legacy will continue. Her vision will prevail.

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