

December 13, 2013

Dear Fair Trade Supporter,

In the midst of the holiday season, I am reminded again of the life-changing results that come from your support of Ten Thousand Villages and fair trade. We recently were visited by Ghaysuddin, general manager of Saidpur Enterprises in Bangladesh, a long-time artisan group providing products for Ten Thousand Villages. What began as a temporary employment program in the 1970s became Action Bag Handicrafts, which is now providing employment to over 300 women, who are earning a fair income making handbags, totes, toys & hats. This steady employment provides income for food and housing, as well as covers education expenses for their children, giving them better options for the future.

The Goshen store has been bringing fair trade to Elkhart County for more than 35 years, as one of the earliest established stores in the Ten Thousand Villages network. In 2008, we moved to 206 S. Main St in historic downtown Goshen after many years at the Depot, adjacent to the Old Bag Factory. We are grateful for over 30 regular volunteers who provide excellent customer service and help tell the inspiring stories of the products.

If you haven't already, I want to invite you to visit the store to browse the many unique products as part of your holiday shopping. Your purchases of fair trade change lives of artisans all over the world.

I also invite you to consider making a year-end donation to Ten Thousand Villages Goshen to support our mission of creating opportunities for artisans in developing countries to earn income by bringing their products and stories to our markets through long-term fair trading relationships. We are almost entirely dependent on product sales as our sole source of income, and have been especially challenged to meet budget over the last two years with flat or declining sales coupled with increased costs for required technology upgrades, equipment, and supplies.

Your gift will help Ten Thousand Villages continue to provide fair trade products to Elkhart County and provide markets for artisans from around the world. Please consider how you can contribute. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Deanna Risser

Ten Thousand Villages -Goshen

Board Chair