

# Global Village

Newsletter Fall 2001

## "Gifts for a better world"

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

|                    |                       |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Nancy Long         | President             |
| Luan Railsback     | Vice President        |
| Louise Northrup    | Secretary             |
| Doug Thompson      | Treasurer             |
| Bill Mize          | Website               |
| Pat Pusey          | Volunteer Coordinator |
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| Clare Tschirn      | Inventory             |
| Mary Ruth Ginn     | Site Selection        |
| Mary Anne Michelet | Community Outreach    |

### ADVISORY BOARD

Rev. Carol Lakota Eastin  
Rev. David Koehler  
Louis Hofer

### **PURPOSE**

Global Village is a local not-for-profit, volunteer run corporation founded to partner with people in impoverished communities in the US and throughout the world. This is done by providing a Peoria area market for their artistic, craft and food products while giving consumers an opportunity to expand their cultural and political awareness. Our desire is to stimulate economic development and promote self-sufficiency without exploitation.

### **LOCATIONS**

Crafts to You 617 W. Loucks, Peoria. Open Tuesday through Saturday 10am to 7pm

That Cool Shop 1308 E. Seiberling, Peoria Heights  
Open Monday through Friday 11am to 4pm and Saturday 11am to 3pm.

### **LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Dear Friends,

While the September 11 terrorism and the military response from our government have brought on a wave of patriotism in this country, they have also made us confront the question in the Christian Science Monitor headline, "Why Do They Hate Us?" We can't escape the fact that the US, only 5% of the world's population, possesses a great deal of the world's wealth. This is resented by many poor nations and people. What a perfect time for all of us to reach out to struggling people throughout the world! Global Village is only a small effort for economic justice, but it is an effort. We can give concerned people in the Peoria area a way to do something positive with our spending power this holiday season.

We have two new suppliers this year that exemplify your concern: The Theresian Sisters of Bukoba Region in Tanzania (see pg. 3), and David Appalachian Crafts of Eastern Kentucky. Thanks to your generous help with our concert and garage sale, we've purchased great new items that we'll feature at our Open House October 20. We've also received wonderful donations of display furnishings to show off our multicultural toys, clothing, home decor, cards, coffees, teas, and gift foods. There will still be time on Oct. 20 for special-ordering from some of our suppliers; we'll have catalogues at both shops that day.

What we need most now is you—working at the Open Houses; finding sales opportunities where you work, worship, and live; helping unpack new items as they arrive; shopping Global Village and letting your family and friends know about us. Party sales are popular this time of year—what about a "Shop With Justice; Build Peace" home party? Workplace lunch? We have some videos about the people who make the gifts, if that fits your venue. Or one of the board members can speak. Mary Anne Michelet can help you plan the details.

In our first year of sales, we totaled \$5,860, enough to support five impoverished third-world families for one year. Let's see what we can accomplish together this year!

Peace in your life and our world,  
Nancy Long

Global Village is a division of Friends of the Third World which has strict standards for Fair Trade that must be met by our suppliers. As this article states, there is as yet no universal emblem indicating an article is Fairly Traded. We must be informed shoppers. The website [responsibleshopper.org] is a helpful tool for fair trade information. But remember, everything you buy at Global Village is fairly traded, we've done the research for you. Shop for a better world!

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Do you have a place for Global Village to have a sale and/or do a presentation? How about a home show with your friends and coworkers? Can you make some time to help at a sale? **WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT.** We find that once people are educated about who we are, most are enthusiastic about supporting the project. Often, we don't have an opportunity to educate except the chatting we do with customers. The more we get out into the community, the more people will learn about us. To arrange an event please contact me by email, [maryannemichelet@hotmail.com] or 655-0515. Here's where we've been or are going soon:

Diocesan Council of Catholic Women, Bloomington  
Knights of Columbus Women's Auxiliary, Morton  
Blessed Sacrament Pancake Breakfast, Morton  
St. Philomena Women's Club, Peoria  
Women for Humanity Picnic, Peoria  
Religious Formation Conference, Chicago

## THANK YOU:

This newsletter we would like to highlight those organizations that have consistently supported Global Village from the beginnings. Thanks to:

Church Women United  
Coalition of Labor Union Women  
Saint Bernard's Church  
Peoria Peace Network  
Roncalli Society  
University United Methodist Church Women  
Labor Council of Peoria

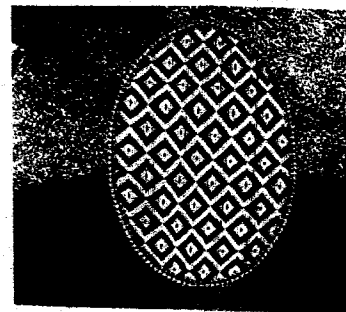
## TANZANIAN CRAFTS

The Saint Therese Sisters of the Bukoba Area of Tanzania are one of our newest suppliers. Tanzania is among the poorest countries in the world, with an average income per year of \$730. Average income in the US is \$31,500. The Sisters form a community of 413 members and are located in missions in three countries. They work in health care, education, social work and parish ministry, especially with women, children and AIDS/HIV patients. A few years ago, they decided to bring a health clinic to one of the needy areas so that women wouldn't have to walk 20 miles with their children for medical help. They are still working on this dream. Each year, they have 75 applicants to their order but can only provide shelter, education and sufficient food for a limited number. They live in poverty.

Some of the sisters have talent to create the traditional arts of mat and card making. The mats are beautifully woven from dyed grass or palm leaves. The cards are made with finely cut and carefully constructed pieces of dried banana stems and leaves. Bananas are their main source of food. Each card can take 30-60 minutes to put together. These are really works of art.

By contracting with Global Village to sell their art, the Sisters can help themselves out of subsistence living, receive the education they need, and be better able to help the people of their region. They are also preserving traditional art forms of their culture by having a market for them here. A card is a luxury in Tanzania so most people there won't buy them.

Come and see these works of art, along with the beautiful traditional wood carvings they sent us of Native Peoples and animals. Come to the Open House, or drop by the displays in our two locations.



*Come celebrate our first anniversary  
in our area shops*

## OPEN HOUSE & TASTING PARTY

Join us Saturday, October 20 for an Open House and coffee/tea tasting party. We have quite a variety from all over the world: Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Kenya, Tanzania, Indonesia, India and Mexico. We will be offering samples of our delicious beverages at both of our permanent locations, **That Cool Shop** and **Crafts to You**. Bring a friend or family member with you and let us treat you. Our products are organic, shade grown and fair-traded. Just what does that mean? The following article is reprinted from CO-OP AMERICA QUARTERLY.

### "What is Fair Trade?"

--adapted from information from the Fair Trade Federation and TransFair USA

The Fair Trade movement offers a fast-growing alternative to products made under sweatshop conditions. By seeking out Fairly Traded goods, which range from bananas and tea to clothing and wall hangings, you can ensure your purchase made life better for the worker whose hands made or grew it. Using one of the most widely recognized Fair Trade products - coffee - we'll walk you through what it means for a product to bear the words "Fair Trade" on its label.

### Cooperative and healthy workplaces

Fair Trade companies are committed to purchasing goods from small businesses and democratically run cooperatives and associations. These companies have also committed to ensuring safe and healthy workplaces, thereby guaranteeing that the workers don't labor under sweatshop-like conditions.

### A fair and living wage

Although it may not cost us any extra money to buy Fair Trade products, more of our dollars will make their way to the producers. Since Fair Trade organizations bypass exploitative middle merchants and work directly with producers, they are able to cut costs and return a greater percentage of the retail price to producers. In addition, Fair Trade companies agree to pay producers a living wage--

or one that gives them enough money to meet basic monthly needs in their communities--no matter how the economy is doing. For example, Fair Trade coffee farmers are guaranteed a minimum price for their coffee; they profit when the market soars and still earn enough to cover their living expenses when it plummets.

### Environmental sustainability

Fair Trade organizations encourage producers to employ environmentally sustainable practices. In the case of coffee, this commitment means that you'll often find the words "organic" and "shade-grown" on fairly traded coffee. [organic means that it is grown without chemical pesticides or fertilizers; shade grown or "bird-friendly" coffee is cultivated on farms where trees remain standing to preserve important forest ecosystems.]

### Consumer education and public disclosure

Fair Trade businesses educate consumers about what "Fair Trade" means - living wages and healthy working conditions - and why it's important to look for Fairly Traded products.

Fair Trade companies also have a commitment to public accountability and transparency.

### Respect for cultural identity

To call themselves Fair Trade, companies also commit to respecting cultural identity. In other words, they "encourage the production and development of products based on producers' cultural traditions adapted for Western markets," says TransFair USA.

### Fair Trade standards

Unfortunately, there is no generic Fair Trade label for all products that fit these criteria - but there are standards. Many Fair Trade companies belong to the Fair Trade Federation (FTF), and umbrella organization that holds its members to strict guidelines. Contact FTF to find out who its members are. Since Fair Trade companies are committed to being transparent, you should easily be able to find out what steps a company is taking to comply with Fair Trade standards.

In the case of coffee and tea, there is a label. Look for the TransFair USA label which signifies that the suppliers of this coffee or tea meet Fair Trade guidelines. In the near future TransFair USA plans to start labeling other products, from bananas to chocolate to orange juice.

CO-OP America Quarterly, Summer 2001

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