

GLOBAL VILLAGE

NEWSLETTER WINTER 2004

"Gifts for a better world"

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GLOBAL VILLAGE SHOP

1308 E. Seiberling, Peoria Heights 61616
Hours: Tues-Sat. 10a-4p Ph: 681-8180

YOU'RE INVITED

**ANNUAL MEETING/ MEMBER
APPRECIATION POT LUCK**
Saturday, April 17, 6-9pm
FORREST PARK NATURE CENTER
PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS

MORE CLEAN CLOTHES WEBSITES

www.NoSweatshop.com

www.cleanclothesconnection.org, click on "shop for a better world."

www.NoSweatApparel.com

www.justiceclothing.com (have beautiful dress shirts, and other sports and casual wear)

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

Happy (belated) New Year! It seems to be time for state-of-the-nation, the-state, and even the-city speeches. So let me give you a state-of-the-Village report.

In our first full fiscal year with a shop (Sep.2002-Aug. 2003), we had 69 volunteers. These great people did everything from sales in and out of the shop to bookkeeping, to painting and decorating, to community education about sweatshop issues. Almost 400 households now receive our newsletter. We made 17 educational presentations to teachers, students, church and community groups. We sold \$31,601. worth of crafts, educational materials and food from struggling people in over 30 countries.

In our second holiday season with a shop, sales increased from \$9,812. (Nov.-Dec.2002) to \$16,369. (2003). Because volunteer labor keeps our overhead low, we were able to donate \$5700. to the women of Nahuala, Guatemala, for roofing and stoves and we are continuing the cement floor project for the Vasconcelos community.

So, what's next? I'm not entirely sure. Because this is an election year, and voting is another way to express one's values, some of our shop volunteers have become voting registrars. People can register to vote in the March primary until Feb. 17, and in the Nov.general election from March 19-October 6.

This year we're combining our Member Appreciation potluck with our annual meeting and election of new officers on Saturday evening April 17 (mark your calendar now!). A nominating committee is currently seeking people willing to lead Global Village for the next two years. If you're interested in becoming a Board member, or have suggestions for the Board, please contact Luan Railsback by leaving a message at the shop ASAP.

Please continue to shop and work for justice with us. We appreciate your support and involvement.

Peace,
Nancy Long

CAN YOU SEE YOURSELF

IN THIS PICTURE?

Marcia Ziegler, Volunteer
Global Village Shop



TRAFFICKING OF PEOPLE

What is it?

Why is it a growing problem?

What can we do about it?

We have been learning about sweatshops over the past few years. It is mainly women, laboring under severe and inhumane conditions for pennies a day, producing what we wear. It is a growing social problem as globalization increases its influence in the markets. Another phenomenon that is increasing in our time is that of human trafficking. Illegal transport of people, especially women and children, is occurring at an alarming rate. Often young girls are transported, with the promise of honest work, and then are virtual sex slaves in foreign countries, unable to return to their own land and families.

March 7-8, Celebrating International Women's Day, Michele Clark, Co-Director, Protection Project, Johns Hopkins University, School of Advanced International Studies, Washington, DC, will be here in Peoria helping us with information and discussion concerning this current social problem. All of these events are free of charge.

**Sunday, March 7, 7:00pm,
Room 223, Bradley Hall "Lilya 4-Ever" A film
on trafficking.**
Presented by Bradley University.

**Monday, March 8, 8:30-10:30
Lakeview YWCA
Community Forum**
Presented by Women for Humanity.

Co-sponsored by The Center for Prevention Of Abuse, National Organization for Women and Global Village. Admission is free but reservations are requested. A light breakfast will be provided. Contact **Merle Felder at merlefelder@yahoo.com or 682-6369**

**Monday, March 8, 7:30pm,
Lecture at Marty Theater, Bradley
University Student Center**
Presented by Bradley University

Please plan to attend one or more of these events to become informed and to network with members of social services and law enforcement and legislative representatives from Peoria and surrounding communities.

GUATEMALAN PROJECTS

Part of the mission of Global Village is to provide some direct monetary assistance to our suppliers to help improve their living conditions. While they do make a "living wage" from what they sell to us and others, some of the profit they make from their weaving is designated to improve their community life through education and health care. Since they are working to improve the community, they struggle to improve their individual living conditions. After consulting with "Sharing the Dream Relief Projects," we learned the Nahuala group of Mayan weavers has need of new roofs and stoves for their homes. Global Village has contributed \$5,700, including \$1,600 of donations received by our customers by January 17, 2004 and \$4,100 of the shop's proceeds from 2003. This will provide 19 families with new roofs and 12 families with new stoves for their homes. Since "Sharing the Dream" is a mostly volunteer organization, 100% of what we contribute goes directly to the project to improve living conditions. Most of the rest of the proceeds from sales at the shop and events goes toward purchasing new products to sell.

We are continuing our fund raiser for cement floors described in the fall newsletter. We hope that our shoppers and members will contribute to this project so that the Vasconcelos Weavers and Spinners can replace their dirt floors with cement. As we look at our own living conditions, perhaps our gratitude can be expressed in a gift to our hard-working sisters in Guatemala. Think about it. For more information, see the beautiful display in our shop.

ELECTION 2004

Some of our volunteers are registrars so we can conduct non-partisan voter registration at our shop. All eligible citizens, without regard to political party or preference, are encouraged to register and vote. Registration for the March primary goes until Feb. 17. Two days after the primary election March 16, registration can begin again for the November National Election.

If you would like to become a registrar, visit the County Clerk's Office at your County Courthouse. You need to be a registered voter, take your voter's card if you have it and a picture ID. It will take about 15 minutes to answer a few questions and go over some instructions. Let's encourage more participation in our civic responsibility to vote.

NEW BOOK AT THE SHOP

The No-Nonsense Guide to Fair Trade by David Ransom gives a concise look at the ins and outs of fair trade. In a section on the "Icon" status of jeans, David learned about the horrible working conditions from a Guatemalan woman who worked in a maquila (export factory) for an American market. He writes:

"So I remembered what I should never have allowed myself to forget. The true nature of a thing is not to be found in its 'image.' It lies in the materials and the people who made it. The icons of consumer capitalism are made in secret: the raw materials plundered from behind the perimeter fences of private property; the 'goods' stitched together in 'postmodern' labor camps, anonymous sheds filled with human misery, scattered around the world along the meandering borderline between consumers and producers, profit and loss. The 'image' of consumer capitalism lies." P.101

FAIR TRADE COFFEE UPDATE

Another view of the coffee "victory" (Proctor and Gamble agrees to offer one fair trade coffee on internet sales, none at stores):

"Equal Exchange Issues \$25,000 Challenge to Proctor and Gamble:

(CSRwire)CANTON, MA – Equal Exchange, the 60 person employee-owned cooperative that has led the nation in Fair Trade coffee sales since creating the category in 1986, expressed disappointment today at the very modest scope of Proctor and Gamble's recent decision to begin selling a Fair Trade Certified? Coffee under its Millstone brand.

Rick Dickinson, Equal Exchange co-founder and President stated, 'We want what is best for small farmers, even if it means serious competition for us in the marketplace. Unfortunately, P&G, by far the nation's largest coffee company, isn't offering either. In fact, based on available information it appears that well less than 1% of P&G's coffee imports will ever be Fair Trade Certified. They could easily do much, much more.'

To draw attention to this gap between what farmers need and what large coffee companies like P&G are offering, Equal Exchange has issued a public challenge to the multi-national corporation. If in 2004 P&G can at least match the small Massachusetts cooperative pound for pound in Fair

Trade coffee sales, then Equal Exchange will donate \$25,000 to one of their small farmer cooperative trading partners in Latin America.

Dickinson added, 'We fear that the P&G decision will disappoint as many struggling farmers and concerned consumers as Starbuck's Fair trade announcement several years ago. Neither company seems willing to honestly address the fundamental inequities inherent in the world coffee trade. If the likes of P&G and Starbucks, with their massive resources, can't commit to Fair Trade for even 1% of their coffee, their announcements appear more marketing driven than substance.'

Rob Everts, Equal Exchange's Co-Executive Director said, 'With consumers more aware than ever before of poverty and sweatshop conditions overseas, they are looking to big companies to reform their behavior. Unfortunately, P&G's announcement will reinforce the well earned perception that big business continues to put profits before people, and image over substance.'"

To express your concern to Proctor and Gamble, call the consumer line at 1-800-522-7894 and press "0." Ask them to carry Millstone Mountain Moonlight Fair Trade Coffee IN STORES. Ask them to invest more in fair trade coffee.

Keep asking the places you shop or have a cup of coffee to carry Fair Trade Certified coffee and tea. In our area you can find this at Global Village, some Kroger and Schnucks supermarkets and Java Joes coffee hut on War Memorial. Where else?

WHY ARE THERE SWEATSHOPS?

Sweatshops are not inevitable. They are a symptom of a global economy that allows some people and corporations to exploit others in the pursuit of profits. Below are the factors that sustain sweatshops:

1. Corporate Greed: Corporations and multinational manufacturers have found that they no longer need to operate their own factories. In a world virtually free of borders, they can search the globe for subcontractors and suppliers in countries where regulations are weak, operating costs are low, and workers are easily exploited. This outsourcing also allows companies to claim they aren't responsible for the abuse in sub-contracted factories.

From CO-OP America Quarterly Guide to Ending Sweatshops (to be continued)

GLOBAL VILLAGE

CELEBRATES FEBRUARY

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

20% discount

on African or African American crafts, books, posters and cards.

WATCH FOR MARCH WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH PROMOTION TOO!

**NEED VALENTINE'S DAY GIFTS/FAIR TRADE CHOCOLATE?
COME SEE OUR SELECTION**

Global Village
Division of Friends of the Third World
1308 E. Seiberling
Peoria, IL 61614
309 681-8180

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