



Four Corners

An Alternative Trade Organization

Creating opportunities
for artists in the
developing world!

National Volunteer Week April 19 – 26



National volunteer week is a special time set aside to thank and honour the people who donate their time and energy. Volunteers are critical to the operation of Four Corners. We are blessed to have a team of dedicated volunteers who spend numerous hours in our warehouse opening and labeling new product and packing and unpacking consignment sales. Across Canada volunteers host consignment sales, each of these sales makes an impact on the lives of our artisans. Many thanks to all who have been involved with our program this year! To find out how you can become involved call or email Iris Barta at iris@clwr.mb.ca or 1.800.661.2597).

Elephants arrive from India!

We have just finished opening our latest shipment from MESH (Maximizing Employment to Serve the Handicapped) India. In addition to elephants we also have a variety of cotton pigs, dogs,

giraffes, snakes and alligators. The stuffed animals are made by artisans working for Hubli Hospital for the Handicapped (HHH). The hospital delivers cotton for sewing and stuffing the animals to the homes of artisans. After caring for her family and home an Indian woman will make and stuff three to four dozen animals in a week. Each week the hospital picks up the completed animals and delivers more material and the woman's wages. The artisan, who may be too disabled to work in the fields or the village, becomes a much valued contributor to the family because of her work through HHH.

The MESH shipment also included tea towels in several new colours and some new tablecloths. MESH works with about fifty artisan communities in India. Through their work some handicapped artisans are now able to earn their own living and thereby



gain independence and dignity. In addition to the linens and bags produced at Bethany Village in Delhi, we also have a variety of products from other communities. Silence, a community of deaf artisans, produces a variety of candles. Blue Mango produces a line of jewellery. MESH products are available by ordering a consignment sale or online at www.clwr.org.



Open House – May 9, 2009

We are celebrating World Fair Trade Day with our annual open house. Join us on Saturday, May 9, to see what's new, check out our clearance section and sample some fairly traded goodies.

Fair Trade began 50 years ago in Africa and Europe. Aid organizations and small-scale farmers worked together to lay the foundation for a trading system that ensured a fair price for their produce and a marketplace in Europe and North America.



Four Corners artisans must follow or be working toward the following Fair Trade criteria:

- Paying a fair wage in the local context.
- Purchasing and marketing of artisan goods according to high ethical standards.
- Providing equal employment opportunities for all people.
- Engaging in environmentally sustainable practices.
- Being open to public accountability.
- Providing healthy and safe working conditions.
- Building long-term relationships.
- Providing financial and technical assistance to producers whenever possible.
- Consumers are informed about the people who make the products that they purchase.
- Alternative Trade Organizations work with artisans to provide quality products.
- Cultural exchanges between people are encouraged.

Order Fair Trade Products Online!

CLWR has launched a new web page. The web page has a new look and a variety of information about all of the programs of CLWR. Four Corners is very excited that as part of the launch we are offering online shopping for the first time. Log onto www.clwr.org to see which products are available. Watch for updates, including new items available and sales!

We would like to hear from you!

What is your favourite Four Corners product? Do you have an innovative use for one of our products? How were you introduced to our products? If you have any stories or comments about the Four Corners program we would like to hear from you. Please contact Iris Barta at iris@clwr.mb.ca or 1.800.661.2597

We're still here

Some people have noticed the For Sale sign at our 1080 Kingsbury Avenue location. We are selling our building, however, for now we are still here! Four Corners is looking for a new home. We will let you know as soon as possible where that will be and when we are relocating. Please continue to visit us at 1080 Kingsbury Avenue.

Fair Trade

R N O N C J E O L K Q E E C V
 A E L S R F W P G M N G T R L
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ACCOUNTABLE	ENVIRONMENT	HEALTHY	SAFE
ARTISANS	EQUAL	OPPORTUNITIES	VOLUNTEERS
ASSISTANCE	ETHICAL	QUALITY	WAGE
CULTURAL	FAIR	RELATIONSHIPS	

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