

Partnerships

NEWSLETTER OF A GREATER GIFT • NOVEMBER 2005

GLOBAL NOISE! DRUMS, FLUTES & RATTLES FROM A GREATER GIFT

Music and dance have been used by all cultures since the beginning of time to celebrate new beginnings such as births, weddings, coming of age ceremonies, graduations; and to commemorate loss, heighten spiritual awareness, and, before cell phones, as a means of communication.

In Africa, a skin-covered drum was probably one of the earliest forms of communication used by humans. Tibetan monks learn to meditate, soothed by the hum of a bronze singing bowl. In the dry, thin air of the altiplano in Bolivia and Peru, panpipes (also known as zampoñas) played by Andean Indians replicate the haunting sounds of the wind and grab your heart. A Chilean rainstick, made from a hollowed cactus stem and filled with pebbles, recreates the sounds of a rushing waterfall or trickling raindrops.



Nepalese monks create traditional global noise.

HOW CAN YOU CREATE GLOBAL NOISE?

You can find musical instruments that make wonderful global noise on pages 64-67 in our Holiday Catalog.

At your next meeting or religious gathering, you might want to consider using an A Greater Gift percussion instrument to bring the group to order—the swish-swish of a Calabash Rattle (#09013, pg. 64) or the tinkling of Bronze Chimes (#65364, pg. 67) could get their attention.

The children could provide a backup drum beat to energize your favorite hymn, using Bongos from India (#35741, pg. 65), a Kenyan Zebra Drum (#45607, pg. 67), or the new Nepalese Tall Drum with goatskin heads (#65365, pg. 65).

Set a meditational mood with a Bronze Singing Bowl from Nepal (#65007, pg. 67), Bamboo Panpipes from Peru (#72296, pg. 66), a Rain Stick from Chile (#13907, 13908, pg. 66), or the new Inspiration Wind Chimes from Indonesia etched with a traditional floral design (#37434, pg. 18).

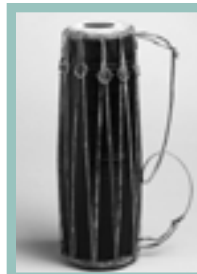
IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO HOST A GREATER GIFT SALE!

2005 has been a year to remind us that we are all connected. The importance of volunteering, giving, and reaching out is very clear as people work to rebuild their communities and lives after so many disasters both here and abroad.

In this spirit, we invite you to host a A Greater Gift Sale this holiday season. You can combine your sale with a holiday party at home or with your community or religious organization's holiday events. It is not too late!

By selling handcrafts or foods, you are helping talented artisans in those countries help themselves to build better lives.

Start your planning by picking a date for your sale today! Call 1.800.423.0071 to get started or visit www.agreatergift.org/hostasale.



The Tall Drum (#65365, pg. 65) in our Holiday Catalog is handcrafted in Nepal. It has a drum head at both ends and a leather strap—perfect for a drum procession!



BASKETS CREATE A WAY OF LIFE IN AFRICA

Not only are African baskets beautiful in their detail, but also functional. Most of the African baskets that A Greater Gift carries are derived from traditional African designs used in women's daily lives.



TCRS Lidded Basket (#85015, pg. 14).



A TCRS artisan demonstrates a tight coil weave.

BASKETS FOR DAILY USE

In different parts of Africa, baskets are a fundamental element of daily life. They are used to transport food, fuel and other necessities from the market. Some are even so tightly woven that they can safely hold water. In many houses, baskets are often the primary storage for most household goods.

Africa's highly skilled basket makers use the full range of traditional weaving techniques. Most of the artisans gather materials from the countryside near their homes, and use natural dyes to add color and interest to the patterns in their baskets.

A TRADITIONAL SKILL

The majority of the African baskets that A Greater Gift carries are made using a coiling technique. In this method, natural grasses and other materials are first bundled together. These materials are then stitched into a spiraling round

or oval form to make the colorful, useful trays and baskets that A Greater Gift buys from these artisans.

A Greater Gift is featuring new basket designs from Ghana, Tanzania, Kenya, Swaziland and Uganda, both in our Holiday Catalog and on our web site at www.agreatergift.org.



Product Development Specialist Kerry Evans weaves with a TCRS artisan in Tanzania on a recent product design trip.

GIFT BASKETS FROM A GREATER GIFT

Friends, employees, volunteers, your boss, your pastor, even a local official—what better way to teach them about the diversity and talents of fair trade producers than with an attractive, affordable gift basket.

The Hope & Justice Gift Basket (#95510, pg. 12) has a sample of items from cocoa farmers in Ghana, capiz artists in the Philippines, candle makers in India and coffee farmers of Mexico.

The Hope & Justice Gift Basket is named for the new Just Coffee blend that is included. It carries A Greater Gift's tagline and logo and brews a delicious medium roast. Share this and the fair trade treats in our gift baskets with someone this season to show them how they can spread hope and justice around the world through fair trade.



*Hope & Justice Gift Basket (#95510)
All Gift Baskets are featured on pg. 12
of our 2005 Holiday Catalog.*



hope and justice with every purchase
a greater gift

CUSTOMER SERVICE

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A GREATER GIFT

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FALL BEST SELLERS



Thanks to you, our supporters, fall sales have been soaring for our producer partners. Here are the best sellers based on demand to help you order for your store, sale or friends!

1 **Bronze Singing Bowl**
(#65007, pg. 67)

2 **Children of the World Mobile**
(#77020, pg. 61)

3 **Children's Nativity**
(#77047, pg. 48)

4 **Wood Cat Puzzle Box**
(#35577, pg. 24)

5 **Labyrinth Game**
(#36220, pg. 25)

6 **Holy Family**
(#43342, pg. 42)

7 **Suar Nativity**
(#37446, pg. 45)

8 **Butterfly Puzzle Box**
(#35672, pg. 24)

9 **Jungle Animal Necklace**
(#35692, pg. 30)

10 **Olive Wood Creche**
(#43020, pg. 43)

11 **Chrysanthemum Necklace**
(#35764, pg. 31)

12 **Abaca Angels**
(#74120, pg. 55)

13 **Doll Purse**
(#13200, pg. 63)

14 **Nesting Kaisa Grass Baskets**
(#06251, pg. 15)

15 **Arpillera Tree Skirt**
(#72024, pg. 57)

**Food not included.*

CUSTOMER SERVICE

REMINDERS

Wholesale Customers - Don't let your orders get delayed! Make sure your account is current and payments are made within 30 days of the order as per the signed Sales Agreement.

NEW, IMPROVED WEB SITE!

Please visit our new website at www.agreatergift.org where you can view larger product photos and find more information about the artisans who make each item.

Wholesale and Consignment

customers, order at www.agreatergift.org/ezorder or check current inventory levels at www.agreatergift.org/inventory.

CUSTOMER SERVICE CLOSING

Customer Service will be closed Thanksgiving Day, November 24, 2005.

HOLIDAY HOURS (Oct 3-Dec 18)

Mon - Fri: 7:30am-10pm EST

Sat: 9am-8pm EST

Sun: 12pm-6pm EST



Equo Tea (#35811, 35812, 35809, 35813, 35810, pg. 8)

EQUO ORGANIC TEAS—
NOW AVAILABLE!

EQUO teas are grown by farmers of the Pashok Cooperative on lush, green mountain slopes in the Darjeeling region of India. Pashok's farmers receive a fair price for their tea, and benefit from direct, long-term trading and development relationships that help them work their way out of poverty.

EQUO teas are organic certified, which insures better health for the local environment, the farmers and their families, and for you!

NOREEN LONG, CUSTOMER
SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE

If you have ever called A Greater Gift's toll-free number, you have probably heard the friendly voice of Noreen Long, a Customer Service Representative for more than 10 years. Noreen, a mother of 4 from a large Irish-American family, has a passion for her work, and for everything she does. An expert cook, she also loves gardening, quilting, home decorating, reading, and spending quality time with her family.

Noreen tells us, "I like to think that I can put a smile on a customer's face and leave them with a very good impression of A Greater Gift."

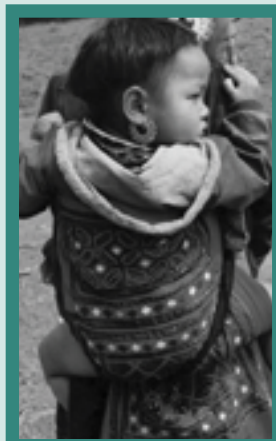
*Noreen Long,
Customer Service
Representative*



*Kathy Harley,
Customer Service
Manager*

VIETNAMESE TEXTILES, WOVEN & DYED BY ETHNIC MINORITIES

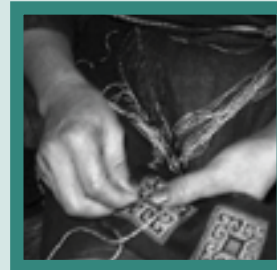
Since they escaped the feudalism of the Chinese authorities and sought refuge in the mountains of Vietnam 300 years ago, the lives of the ethnic minorities of northern Vietnam have changed very little. Known as “montagnards” during the French colonial period, the tribes have remained isolated both culturally and geographically in their mountain hamlets, battling discrimination, illiteracy, and disease.



Traditional embroidery of Vietnam.

The H'mong, who make up 1% of the country's population, are isolated not only from other hill tribes and the ethnic Vietnamese, but are also separated by language, customs, and dress from other H'mong, which include Black, Blue, and White branches based on the color of their dress.

A Greater Gift partner Craft Link, based in Hanoi, offers the messenger bag (#92456, pg. 36), made using fabric woven, dyed, and embroidered by the 170 women in the Ta Phin commune who are known as the Black H'mong, named for the dark indigo color of their clothes. The bag is assembled by troubled urban youths at the Craft Link workshop in Hanoi. The Batiked Purse (#92458, pg. 37), made by the Craft Link H'mong, is 100% cotton, dyed indigo blue, batiked, and embroidered.



Intricate H'mong embroidery in our Holiday Catalog is stitched by hand by artisans in Asia.



Our dark blue Batiked Purse has an embroidered pocket on the front (#92458, pg. 37).

Partnerships is the newsletter of A Greater Gift, a nonprofit program of SERRV International. It is published six times annually and distributed to our customers, donors, volunteers and the nationwide network of stores that sell our products.



OUR MISSION

is to promote the social and economic progress of people in developing regions of the world by marketing their handcrafts and food products in a just and direct manner.



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SERRV
INTERNATIONAL



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