

DIX MILLE
VILLAGES



TEN THOUSAND
VILLAGES®

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ten Thousand Villages celebrates 65 Years of Fair Trade (with day of exciting events)!



Join us October 20, 21 (10 am – 8 pm) & 22 (9am -4pm) at Hamilton Mennonite Church, 143 Lower Horning Road in celebrating Ten Thousand Villages’ landmark 65th year of crafting change around the world through the sale of unique handicrafts.

When Edna Ruth Byler first brought Puerto Rican needlework to North America in 1946, the term Fair Trade did not exist. Her volunteer project to provide market access for artisans spearheaded the Fair Trade movement in North America and eventually evolved into what has become Ten Thousand Villages.

This fall Ten Thousand Villages stores and Festival Sales across Canada and here in Hamilton will celebrate with displays, videos, and a door prize. “Ten Thousand Villages has been a presence in Hamilton for 11 years, thanks to many volunteers from Hamilton Mennonite Church who assist with the hosting of our annual Festival Sale,” says Judy Geiger, lead coordinator of event. “It is very exciting to be showcasing and celebrating Ten Thousand Villages’ amazing history.”

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Note to Editor:

Ten Thousand Villages is the oldest and largest Fair Trade organization in North America. Through a network of forty-eight stores, as well as through hundreds of Festival Sales and E-shopping, Ten Thousand Villages Canada sells artisan-crafted personal accessories, home decor and gift items from around the globe.

Ten Thousand Villages creates opportunities for artisans in developing countries to earn income by bringing their products and stories to our markets through long-term, fair trading relationships.

Ten Thousand Villages is a non-profit program of Mennonite Central Committee (MCC), the relief and development agency of Mennonite and Brethren in Christ churches in North America. Ten Thousand Villages has its roots in the work begun by Edna Ruth Byler in 1946.

Ten Thousand Villages is a member of the World Fair Trade Organization (WFTO), a coalition of handicraft and agricultural producer organizations, and Fair Trade organizations from both the North and the South.

For more information, please visit our website: www.TenThousandVillages.ca

**Ten Thousand Villages: 65 Years of Fair Trade
Celebrating the Past - Working for the Future**