



TEN THOUSAND
VILLAGES



About the Artisans

Noah's Ark International

Noah's Ark was established by Christian businessman, Samuel Masih, who observed how middlemen demanded fees, leaving metalworkers with very little pay. Although he knew nothing of the Fair Trade movement, he set out to ensure better wages for the impoverished artisans. Forty artisan groups representing 300 full-time artisans now work with Noah's Ark creating metal and wood crafts, cutlery, handmade paper, bone and horn items, jewellery and textiles. Noah's Handicrafts and Welfare Society provides free nutrition, medical services and basic education for artisans and their families. In addition, Noah's Ark's artisans are trained to better manage product development, and raw materials are supplied to family units who are then paid a piece rate for each finished product. As businesses become more self-sufficient, Noah's Ark takes on new families. Since their inception, about 20 workshops have become independent. Recently, the organization has also established three schools for artisans' children who might otherwise have little opportunity for education.

Blue Sky Necklace

Beautiful glass beads are embraced by a fine metal wire to create this whimsical accessory. Handcrafted in India by makers with Noah's Ark, this necklace aids artisans to become self-sufficient, and forge for a better future for themselves and their families.



Special Details:

Wire wrapping is used to produce intricate effects with simple tools and materials. Skilled artisans manipulate wire with vises, jigs, and pliers to overlap, knot, weave, and coil wire into the desired shape. This technique can also be used to attach beads or gemstones to a piece, or string beads to create a necklace or bracelet. The resulting jewellery piece is beautiful and complex, though the materials may be humble.

Materials:

glass beads, wire

Travel the world with each visit to Ten Thousand Villages.

Learn how Fair Trade really makes a difference. Our goal is to provide vital, fair income to artisans by marketing their handicrafts and telling their stories in North America. Ten Thousand Villages sells product from more than 30 countries, providing work for nearly 60,000 people around the world.

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