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Cinnamon Snowflake Garland

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The sweet scent of the holidays clings to this cinnamon bark snowflake garland handcrafted by a small workshop in Da Nang, Vietnam. From collecting the material to drying and finishing, it can take months to finish each piece. Before coming to the workshop, one maker sold cinnamon powder and shoe liners, but business was poor. Now, income is growing and life is more stable. The dream? Have the children carry on the business.



About the Artisans

MAI Vietnamese Handicrafts

Mai Handicrafts is a non-profit organization founded by social workers concerned about the plight of street children in Ho Chi Minh City. At the time, schooling was only available to those who held legal papers and could afford the tuition fees. Street children, meeting neither of these requirements, were excluded. Mai Handicrafts gave work to youth and provided them with informal literacy classes. Now that schooling is free for all children in Vietnam, Mai Handicrafts provides work for the marginalized, including women and ethnic minority groups. Artisans receive social and health care insurance and may apply for scholarship funds. The organization funds community development activities including clean water projects, vocational training, equipment purchases and teacher wage subsidies. Mai has also responded to environmental concerns by collecting waste material for recycling – some of which is utilized in the creation of new products – and hiring young women to work after school cutting and forming boxes rather than buying ready-made packaging materials.

Materials:

cinnamon bark, twine

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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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