



TEN THOUSAND
VILLAGES



Quilled Paper Tree Ornament

This decorated Christmas tree is crafted from quilled paper, the art of rolling narrow strips of paper into coils or scrolls, and arranging them to form elegant filigree. Quilling is perfect for marginalized makers in rural and urban areas as only simple tools and supplies are needed. From the makers at Mai Vietnamese Handicrafts.



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.

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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