



TEN THOUSAND
VILLAGES



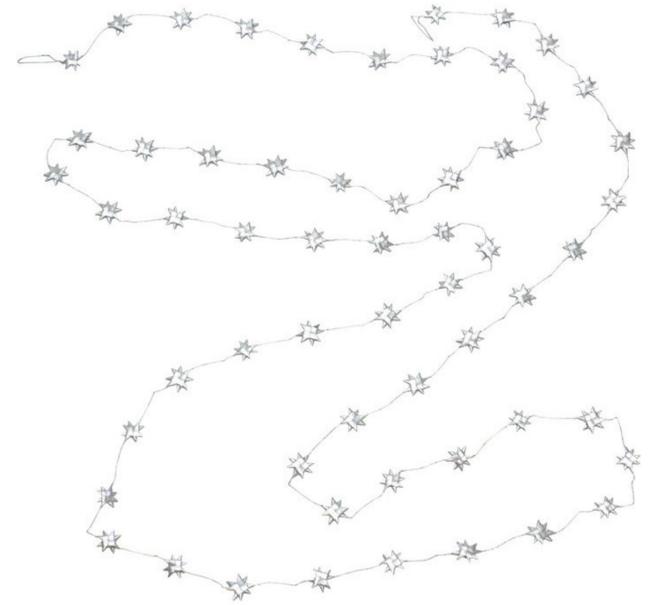
About the Artisans

Prokritee

Prokritee (meaning “nature” in Bengali) provides jobs for poor rural women: widows and divorcees, primarily rural, landless and with little or no income. Prokritee manages several handicraft enterprises and helps other groups sell their products in local and foreign markets. By providing jobs for women, Prokritee improves women’s standards of living and helps them send their children to school. The organization provides skills development training to artisans. The design department of Prokritee is committed to developing marketable designs based on Bangladesh’s cultural heritage. Prokritee creates and promotes income-generating projects that benefit the artisans, adhere to good safety and environmental standards and have the potential to become self-reliant.

Silver Star Garland

Let the parties start. This holiday silver garland showcases handmade palm leaf stars bound on a cord. Hang on the tree, in doorways or any other area of the home you want to add some extra sparkle. Each star is folded tidily by hand in Bangladesh.



Materials:

Palm leaf is a valuable raw material for many artisans. Growing as a thick cluster of either fanned or feathered leaves at the top of a palm tree, palm leaf is a commonly-used resource in many countries. Some of Ten Thousand Villages' top selling products – star garlands and door hangers for example – are produced from keya palm leaves in Bangladesh. Harvested locally, only a small number of leaves are taken from each tree so as not to harm the plant. In preparation for weaving, these large leaves are cut and split into narrow strips. Simple improvisation, such as a razor blade countersunk into a wooden stool, makes cutting the keya palm even easier. After the leaves have been cut, they are ready to be soaked and dyed using biodegradable, "AZO-free" dyes, which bind only to the pulp fibres and not to the waste water. Once these beautifully-coloured palm strips have been dried in the sun, they are woven into unique mobiles, streamers, ornaments, and rings.

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.

TEN THOUSAND VILLAGES

www.tenthousandvillages.ca

©2014 TEN THOUSAND VILLAGES. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.