



TEN THOUSAND
VILLAGES



About the Artisans

Palam Rural Centre

Palam Rural Centre offers employment opportunities to people of the marginalized Harijan community in southeastern India. An acronym for "People's Association for Leather and Allied Manufacturing," the letters of which form the Tamil word for "bridge," Palam connects members of the local "untouchable" Madari caste with international markets. A poor people who have often been exploited, the Madaris have not traditionally owned land, but rather supplemented their income with seasonal work for local landowners. Generally illiterate, there have been few opportunities open to them. Palam is now involved with its third generation of artisans. Many of the children of the first and second generations have gone on to become teachers, nurses and accountants. With money from sales, Palam has purchased land and built a workshop, secure homes, a church, school and health centre. As Palam continues to adapt to changing circumstances, it is reaching out to the poor of the region regardless of caste, colour, creed or political and religious affiliation.

Mint-Scented Soap

Lather up with this slightly spicy mint-scented vegetable oil soap from India. Comes in a handmade paper box.

Special Details:

The Palm Oil used in these soaps has been cultivated by Palm Tree Farms throughout India, using sustainable farming practices. This material does not come from areas of Malaysia and Indonesia where forests are being destroyed for the production of palm trees.

Materials:

vegetable oil soap, handmade paper



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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