



TEN THOUSAND  
VILLAGES



## Aqua Beads Multi-strand Necklace

Mint, metallic gold and aqua beads swing on this multi-strand necklace from Asha Handicrafts in India, which ensures that benefits of handicraft production reach the makers themselves.



**Materials:**  
glass beads

### About the Artisans

## Asha Handicrafts Association

Asha, which means “hope” in Sanskrit, was started by professionals responding to the abject poverty of artisans, the problem of exploitative middlemen, and the disappearance of many traditional crafts. Asha’s work has encouraged the growth of cottage industries, assisting once-impoorished individuals and families towards self-sufficiency. Today, Asha works with over 6,500 artisans in India. Benefits to artisans include marketing, design consultancy, product development, advances, interest-free loans, savings programs, medical care, and educational scholarships, uniforms, and books for children. Training is given at the local level on such issues as AIDS, family planning, addictions, domestic violence and gender discrimination, as well as seminars related to business management skills. Asha empowers women by promoting products made by women and women also hold positions of authority and responsibility within the organization.

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**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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