



TEN THOUSAND
VILLAGES



Grey Medallion Cushion Cover

Every Saturday and Wednesday, hundreds of women in and around Ahmadabad, India make their way to St. Mary's Mahila Shikshan to pick up materials and kit bundles for their weekly work. An artisan group founded by women, it gives makers the option to work either in a workshop or from home so they can care for their small children and earn a wage. Each cushion's stitches are personally inspected by expert embroiders for quality before being sent for finishing.



About the Artisans

St. Mary's Mahila Shikshan Kendra

Artisans with St. Mary's Mahila Shikshan Kendra use their traditional skills to create beautiful Gujarati embroidery featuring mirror-work and peacock, elephant, flower and fern motifs. Artisans use locally produced thread and hand-loomed cotton.

Approximately 400 women are employed full-time, and another 100 part-time, many working from home as they care for their children. Nearly 40% of these women are the primary wage earners for their families. St. Mary's is an intentional mix of Christian, Hindu, and Muslim artisans who work together and share in decision-making and project management. The women also have access to medical care, savings plans, sewing education, cooking classes and scholarships for children.

Materials:

cotton, embroidery thread

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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