



TEN THOUSAND
VILLAGES



Field Of Flowers Card

Colourful blooms grow strong on the cover of this greeting card ideal for sunny days and celebrations. From makers at Silence in Kolkata, who produce each card by hand. The artisans use a small, hand-operated screen to create their designs. Silence supports men and women with disabilities, as well as those who are deaf or hard-of-hearing.



About the Artisans

Silence

Silence offers training to people with hearing, visual and physical impairments and operates an institute that provides vocational training in arts and crafts. In India, where unemployment is high, people who are disabled, particularly women, rarely find work. Of the 130 people making their living at Silence, 60% are deaf, while 40% have other physical disabilities. Artisans are trained in a variety of handcrafted arts from incense and candles to greeting cards and jewellery. All employees receive a regular salary, medical and emergency fund benefits, retirement funds, personal accident insurance, profit sharing, and qualifications for free bus transit and reduced government taxation. In 2002, Silence received the Helen Keller Award for employment of physically challenged persons and, in 2004, they received the President's Award for Institution Category and the state award for Service to the Handicapped.

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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