



CREA's Fair Trade – Peace Trade Program

At CREA we believe that a basic part of peace is the knowledge that one can feed, clothe and take care of oneself and one's family. This is true for anyone, anywhere in the world. As part of our work for a sustainable living wage for everyone, CREA has developed its Fair Trade – Peace Trade Program which works directly with cooperatives in several countries to provide ways for the farmers and artisans to bring their products to market. In addition, we work with other organizations committed to Fair Trade, selling their products for them to both expand their markets and also to help educate consumers about the benefits of Fair Trade.

The Fair Trade model is based on consolidating the system that brings products to market so that a greater part of the monies from the sales goes to the farmers and the artisans, their families and communities.

As part of our commitment to fair trade, CREA

- Has a long term relationship with the all artisans and farmer with whom we work
- Pays up front for all products and does not wait to sell the products before paying the artisans and farmers
- Works with the artisans to design and create new products for the market, thereby expanding the possibility of sales and income for the artisans
- Provides specific support for the children of the cooperatives to be able to attend school. It is our belief that education expands possibilities and hope for the future. Where possible, we also work to provide educational opportunities for the adults in the cooperatives.

What you can do:

The biggest challenge in our Fair Trade work is *finding places to hold our sales*. Ask at your workplace, wherever you worship, or any other place that you can think of. Find out if they will let us hold a sale.

The second challenge is having *sufficient volunteers* to help us before, during and after specific sales. Can you help prepare for a sale? Work a sale (includes setting up and taking down after the sale). Or perhaps helping us put everything away after a sale? Any and all volunteers are welcome in the work.

Do you like to organize things? When shipments come in, everything needs to be unpacked, counted and put away in the correct containers. The inventory then needs to be updated. This work can be done to fit your schedule. You can come once or more...whatever works for you.

Are you creative? Can you help us think of new products that the artisans can make? We are trying to expand beyond the gift category. So far we have

- luggage tags,
- different types of name tags for meetings
- briefcases and laptop cases
- pad holders – with logos or names of events on covers
- lanyards for name tags, IDs at work, keys, memory sticks, etc.

We are always looking for new products. Use your imagination and let us know.