

Ten Thousand Villages  
Cameron Village  
435 Woodburn Road  
Raleigh, NC 27605  
(919) 821 1100  
[www.villagesofraleigh.org](http://www.villagesofraleigh.org)



## *News Release*

**Media Contact:**

Caroline Smith  
Marketing Manager  
(919) 821 1100  
[caroline@villagesofraleigh.org](mailto:caroline@villagesofraleigh.org)

**For Immediate Release**

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## **Ten Thousand Villages Celebrates International Women's Day with Live Demonstrations, Trunk Show**

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**RALEIGH, N.C., March 1, 2006** – Featured live demonstrations showcasing unique, handcrafted items made by female artisans around the world are among the activities planned by Ten Thousand Villages in Raleigh's Cameron Village, as the non-profit, fair trade store recognizes [International Women's Day](#) (IWD) Saturday, March 11, 2006.

The [Raleigh location](#) of Ten Thousand Villages, whose mission includes improving the livelihood of disadvantaged people in developing countries, has chosen to honor its women artisans worldwide on this day, as IWD highlights women's equality worldwide and inspires them to achieve their full potential. IWD has been celebrated since 1908.

"Our fair trade mission and practices bring hope, dignity, joy, respect and self-sufficiency to our artisans, including the many women who, as a result of being paid a fair wage for their products, are able to improve the healthcare, diet and education for their families, as well as contribute to the communities in which they live," explains Sarah Pearson, executive director of Ten Thousand Villages in Raleigh. "Their employment and income give them confidence and hope for the future."

Featured highlights of the March 11 event include:

- **Noon to 3:00 p.m.:** Listen to and watch women artisans from the Refugee Women's Micro-Enterprise Initiative as they share stories and provide live demonstrations of basket weaving and textile making.

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- **2:00 p.m.:** Watch Sharon Gale of Unique Batik, a local fair trade wholesaler, as she demonstrates batik, a process used to make vibrant, hand-printed dresses, skirts and sarongs in Indonesia and other parts of the world.
- **3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.:** Browse Gale's latest handmade clothing, handbags, hats and footwear at a trunk sale following her batik demonstration.

### **About Ten Thousand Villages of Raleigh**

[Ten Thousand Villages of Raleigh](#) is a non-profit, fair trade retail store located in the Cameron Village Shopping Center. Opened in 1995, the store is part of a network of nearly 100 fair trade stores across North America. The Raleigh store's principal wholesaler, [Ten Thousand Villages-U.S.](#), is the oldest and largest fair trade home décor and gift retailer in the United States, and a founding member of the [International Federation of Alternative Trade \(IFAT\)](#) and member of the [Fair Trade Federation \(FTF\)](#), both of which aim to improve the livelihood of disadvantaged people in developing countries and to change unfair structures of international trade. Ten Thousand Villages of Raleigh purchases products only from carefully chosen organizations that are members of the IFAT and FTF.

In 2005, Ten Thousand Villages-US received [Co-op America's People's Choice Award for Green Business of the Year](#). The award recognizes Ten Thousand Villages as a leader among businesses across the country committed to social and environmental responsibility.

### **About Fair Trade**

Fair Trade contributes to the alleviation of poverty in developing regions of the world by establishing a system of trade that allows marginalized producers to gain access to developed markets. This system of trade builds on artisans'/producers' skills, enabling communities to play an active part in their own development and at the same time satisfying consumer demand in developed markets.