

The CRS Fair Trade Fund

Help People Help Themselves

The CRS Fair Trade Fund expands the Fair Trade model by awarding two types of grants: development grants to small-scale artisan and farmers overseas and market-building grants to CRS Fair Trade allies in the United States whose work holds unique potential for growing the Fair Trade movement. The grants are small—\$25,000 or less—but they have a huge impact on their recipients.

CRS Fair Trade Fund Development Grants

Since November 2005, for example, CRS has awarded Development Grants to our partners at SERRV and to two artisan groups CRS supports in Madagascar to bring product design training to women artisans. The technical assistance provided helps build the skills artisans need to design products for the global marketplace. In late 2007, the first product, a book bag made from reclaimed denim for students, was exported to the United States for sale.

CRS Fair Trade Fund Market-Building Grants

Working with United Students for Fair Trade (USFT), a national organization with hundreds of affiliates nationwide, a CRS Fair Trade Fund Market-Building Grant helped finance a month-long interfaith immersion for more than one dozen student leaders from across the United States in 2006. During their time in East Africa, these student leaders developed direct relationships with Fair Trade cooperatives, explored the ways faith motivated them to promote Fair Trade, and worked to develop strategies to promote Fair Trade for Africa after their return to the United States.

Get Involved!

Where does the money for these grants come from? You! Every time you buy Fair Trade crafts, coffee or chocolate through the CRS Fair Trade program, our partners contribute a percentage of your purchase to the CRS Fair Trade Fund.

In addition to buying products from our partners, you can contribute directly to the CRS Fair Trade Fund through a secure online donation at www.crsfairtrade.org or by mail when you send your check payable to the:

CRS Fair Trade Fund
228 W. Lexington St.
Baltimore, Maryland 21201-3413

100 percent of your contributions are channeled into our grant fund. For more information on the CRS Fair Trade Fund, visit our website at www.crsfairtrade.org.



The women of APECAFORM process coffee manually.