



# Fair Trade Times



Vol. 1 No. 1

It's Time for Fair Trade

December, 2006

## What Is Fair Trade?

Fair Trade means that farmers, workers and crafters

1. receive a fair price for their labor under direct long-term contracts.
2. are small-scale producers in democratic co-ops (coffee, cocoa, bananas, fruits and crafts) or workers on large farms who receive a living wage and can bargain collectively.
3. do not use abusive child labor or forced labor.
4. use ecologically sustainable methods.

## Who Benefits from Fair Trade?

**Producers:** Fair Trade benefits over one million farmers and farmworkers in more than 58 developing countries across Africa, Asia and Latin America. Beyond receiving a guaranteed fair price for their product, producers are empowered to invest in their organization, improve their communities, and protect the environment.

**Consumers:** Fair Trade Certification allows consumers to “vote with their dollars” by providing a guarantee that products were produced and traded fairly.

**Industry:** Fair Trade Certification enables companies to meet the growing consumer demand for sustainable products and thereby increase profits and ensure quality for years to come.

**Earth:** By limiting the use of harmful pesticides and prohibiting the use of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs), Fair Trade encourages and rewards environmentally sustainable farming practices that protect farmers' health and preserve our valuable ecosystems for future generations.

## Where Can I Purchase Fair Trade?

One easy way to answer that question is to go to the website below, where you can either search by zip code for stores in you area, or check out which national chains sell fair trade products - they list everything from coffee shops to grocery stores and more. **[www.transfairusa.org/do/whereToBuy](http://www.transfairusa.org/do/whereToBuy)**

Just a word of caution: Even though a store carries Fair Trade Products, that does not mean all of their products are fairly traded. So whether it is a candy bar, coffee or a craft item you are after, look for the Fair Trade logo. For example, in some of the popular coffee shops, some, but not all, of their coffee is Fair Trade Certified. In grocery stores, Fair Trade coffee is available, but you have to look at each specific package for the logo.

## What About Gift Giving?

Here are a few suggestions for incorporating Fair Trade into your Christmas shopping this year.

1. Shop at your local stores that carry Fair Trade.
2. Go to the website for Catholic Relief Services, **[http://www.crsfairtrade.org/what\\_is/buy\\_stuff.htm](http://www.crsfairtrade.org/what_is/buy_stuff.htm)**,
3. to purchase coffee, chocolate or craft items.
4. Go to **[www.handcraftingjustice.org](http://www.handcraftingjustice.org)** to see the projects that the Sisters of the Good Shepherd support to benefit women around the world.
5. Contact Ann Marie Gardiner to purchase crafts from El Salvador that are Fairly Traded or go to **[www.sewinc.org](http://www.sewinc.org)** to give a gift that will help a women's business in El Salvador.
6. Other groups such as Oxfam and Heifer Intl provide opportunities for alternative giving to someone in a developing country.