

# NEWS For Immediate Release

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The Fair Trade Market, Manchester United Methodist Church  
129 Woods Mill Rd. Manchester, MO 63011

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## **Joy to a Greener World, Let Every Shopper's Fair Trade Cha-ching**

### *A Grinchy Economy is No Match for The Fair Trade Market Opening Saturday November 21*

Why buy an over-priced, over-packaged, sweatshop-made, plastic thing-a-ma-jig? Cultural entertainment, tasty food, and world-changing goods fill the nation's largest Fair Trade Market open for its seventh year November 21-22 and 27-29, 2009 at Manchester United Methodist Church (129 Woods Mill, Manchester, MO 63011). For an average \$20 per handmade item, go green, end poverty, buy a toy for Cindy Lou, a gift for Nana, and find unique gifts to complete any holiday list knowing the artisan has already been paid a fair wage. Not a sweatshop, forced laborer or destructed rain forest insight. Art, clothing, handcrafts, musical instruments, games, sporting goods, home décor, food, books, toys, jewelry, Christmas and Hanukah holiday items ...from more than 50 countries. Tis the season to de-Grinch: shop The Fair Trade Market.

No other shopping experience can stretch a dollar like fair trade. Holiday dollars spent on fair trade sends a joyous cha-ching around the world. Along with fair wages paid to the artisans who use recycled and environmentally friendly materials, at the Fair Trade Market, shopping dollars become clean water, an orphanage, crisis support and fair trade development projects across the globe. Where else can a dollar go to work on so many projects and still provide distinctive, handmade gifts to fulfill any holiday list?

How can The Fair Trade Market stretch a dollar so far? When a fabulous fair trade gift is purchased, fair wages have already been paid to the artisan who can, in turn, support their family without turning to charity or corruption or environmentally destructive practices like logging and wild animal poaching for income. Fair trade products are made with sound environmental practices including using repurposed and renewable materials, natural dyes, and recycled, post consumer waste packing. Ever used a door mat from flip flops, hung a broken bangle bracelet picture frame, carried a purse from a former sari, or displayed a Coke can nativity scene that providing a glass of clean drinking water half way around the world? Lastly, the ten percent of the purchase donated by the vendors to The Fair Trade Market funds the following year's market as well as several human and fair trade development projects.

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Each year the market has contributed a thousand or more dollars to the crisis fund at Manchester United Methodist Church for utility bill, grocery and other emergency funds for persons in need. Four thousand dollars from the 2007 market was granted to groups working on clean drinking water in Africa, the startup of a fair trade greeting card co-operative for a struggling village in Honduras, and building materials to aid in the construction of an orphanage in Kenya. Two thousand dollars from the 2008 market was granted to a fair trade project focused on preserving traditional crafts and bringing living wages to the impoverished Navajo reservation.

A true family affair, The Fair Trade Market offers shopping, food, and entertainment for everyone. Performances include:

Belly Dance with Nisaa – Traditional Belly Dance Troupe,  
Dances of India – Traditional Dances from India,  
Grandma Coyote – Native American Story Teller (kids can listen while moms to shop),  
Los Flamencos – Flamenco Dance and Music,  
The Music Makers - Fair Trade Christmas Carols,  
Shaolin Lohan Pai – Lion Dance Group, and  
Spirit of Angela – African Drum and Dance Troupe.

See [www.manchesterumc.org/ftm](http://www.manchesterumc.org/ftm) for performance times and performance videos.

The Market is free and open to the public from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. daily on Saturday, November 21; Sunday, November 22; Friday, November 27; Saturday, November 28 and Sunday, November 22. A global selection of gift ideas are provided by local fair trade merchants Plowsharing Crafts, Partners for Just Trade, Backyard Beef and Nuwati Herbals each day with HolyLand-Gifts and the Dancing Yogi on Saturday, November 21. De-Grinch the holidays! Grow hearts two-sizes too big, and stretch dollars to the gift giving, peace building max with gifts that end poverty at The Fair Trade Market.

The Justice Advocates, a group of social justice minded volunteers focused on providing opportunities, including The Fair Trade Market, to learn about and become active in addressing social justice issues locally and around the globe through positive action. For more information about the Fair Trade Market at Manchester United Methodist Church, visit: [www.manchesterumc.org/ftm](http://www.manchesterumc.org/ftm), 129 Woods Mill Road, Manchester, MO 63011, or call 636-394-7506.

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### **Fast Facts**

- The Fair Trade Market follows the 10 principals of fair trade <http://www.manchesterumc.org/fairtrademarket/whatisfairtrade.php>
- Since 2003 The Fair Trade Market has become an annual sale the weekend before and after Thanksgiving now drawing an estimated 5,000 shoppers annually.
- \$340,000 fair trade items have been sold, in the accumulative 22 days the market as been open since 2003, lifting artisans out of poverty through work not charity or aid.
- Approximately \$3,500 in retail sales is equal to a living wage for an artisan supporting a family of four or more for one year in the developing world.
- Conscious consumers vote for change with their dollars at The Fair Trade Market with sales virtually unaffected by the global economic slump (2007 = \$88,000; 2008 = \$85,000)