

Chicago Jan. 21-27

Chicago Market: Living & Giving partners with Fair Trade Federation

This January, The Chicago Market: Living and Giving will add the Fair Trade Pavilion, an area that will be dedicated to Fair Trade Federation artists and products. The new Pavilion will be adjacent to the Beckman's Handcrafted Show and will offer buyers and retailers high-end quality products which create sustainable and positive change for some of the world's poorest communities.

The Fair Trade Federation is a trade association that strengthens and promotes North American Organizations fully committed to Fair Trade. The federation is a part of the global Fair Trade movement, building equitable and sustainable trading partnerships and creating opportunities to alleviate poverty. Fair Trade products are in high demand in the Midwest and across the country and The Chicago Market has expanded its handcrafted selection with Beckman's to accommodate a Fair Trade Pavilion.

"For more than 60 years, Fair Trade organizations have offered high quality products which create positive change for some of the world's poorest communities," said Federation Executive Director Carmen K. Iezzi. "We are delighted to be working with MMPI to establish a special place for buyers and retailers to access Fair Trade products at The Chicago Market. The FTF logo indicates that a company has Fair Trade at the heart of what they do."

"As consumers also gravitate toward global products and embrace social responsibility, it has become imperative for retailers to include ethically produced merchandise in their store's offerings," said Joan Ulrich, senior vice president, MMPI. "The Chicago Market is excited to offer a Fair Trade Federation section, so buyers and retailers can have an extensive selection of handcrafted brands and product categories to choose from."

The market will also host a Fair Trade-themed Power Lunch N' Learn Seminar on Saturday, Jan. 23, 2010, from noon to

1 p.m. Iezzi of the Fair Trade Federation will address "Great Products, Tremendous Impact: Introduction To Fair Trade for Buyers and Retailers. Join her as she describes the Principles of Fair Trade, ways to identify Fair Trade Organizations, and more. RSVP required: events@shopchicagomarket.com.

Temporary Suites, Floor 8th, Room 8A

The January 2010 edition of the Chicago show will be held Thursday, Jan. 21, through Wednesday, Jan. 27, 2010. Temporaries and Beckman's Handcrafted Show will be open Saturday, Jan. 23, through Tuesday, Jan. 26.

The Chicago Market will host 14 Fair Trade Federation exhibitors

- A Bridge for Africa Foundation, bridgeforafrica.org
- Baskets of Cambodia, basketsofcambodia.com
- Dunitz & Company, dunitz.com
- Handmade Expressions, handmadeexpressions.net
- Mata Traders, matatraders.com
- Maya Works, mayaworks.org
- Minga Fair Trade Imports, mingaimports.com
- Partners for Just Trade, partnersforjusttrade.org
- Sustainable Threads, sustainablethreads.com
- Tibet Collection, tibetcollection.com
- Venture Imports, ventureimports.com
- Women of the Cloud Forest, womenofthecloudforest.com
- World-shoppe, world-shoppe.com
- World Finds, worldfinds.com

