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Ten Thousand Villages names new CEO
Leadership appointment will continue organization's growth

(AKRON, Pa.) -- Ten Thousand Villages, the oldest and largest fair trade retail organization in the United States, announces the appointment of Craig Schloneger, Lititz, Pa., to Chief Executive Officer (CEO), effective April 25, 2006. Schloneger will replace Paul Myers, Ten Thousand Villages current CEO, who plans to retire in June.

Schloneger, most recently the lead pastor at Neffsville Mennonite Church in Lancaster, Pa., brings a wealth of corporate experience. Prior to leading the Neffsville congregation, Schloneger served as President of Dutch Corporation in Walnut Creek, Ohio. Schloneger also served a 3-year term as an educator and country representative for Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) in Swaziland in the early 1990s.

Schloneger said, "It is a privilege for me to be joining an outstanding organization such as Ten Thousand Villages. I am excited to work to further the mission of providing a fair income to artisans around the world and to connect people through stories and quality handcrafted products."

Yvonne Martin, Ten Thousand Villages Board of Directors Chairperson said, "We are pleased that Craig has accepted our invitation to be the next CEO of Ten Thousand Villages. We set an ambitious goal to double purchases from our artisan partners during the next five years and we believe that Craig's proven record as a leader in retail business will help us accomplish that goal."

Ten Thousand Villages, with a network of more than 100 stores across North America, leads the fair trade movement with 60 years of experience providing vital, fair income to artisans in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Ten Thousand Villages markets home decor and gift items handcrafted by skilled artisans working with more than 110 artisan groups in 32 countries. Sales for Ten Thousand Villages fiscal year ending March 31, 2006 totaled more than \$20 million.

For more information about Ten Thousand Villages, contact Juanita Fox, media coordinator, at 717-859-8120 or visit tenthousandvillages.com.