

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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For more information contact:
Juanita Fox, media coordinator
(717) 859-8120
juanita.fox@tenthousandvillages.com

**Ten Thousand Villages Receives Co-op America's People's Choice Award for
Green Business of the Year**
Award recognizes businesses making a difference in their communities every day

AKRON, Pa. Last evening, Ten Thousand Villages, the oldest and largest fair trade home décor and gift retailer in the United States, received the first ever People's Choice Award for Green Business of the Year from Co-op America at the San Francisco Green Festival. This award recognizes Ten Thousand Villages as a leader among businesses across the country committed to social and environmental responsibility.

Ten Thousand Villages was chosen to receive the People's Choice Award for Green Business of the Year by a popular vote of the general public. Thousands of socially conscious consumers cast their vote on the Co-op America web site September 15 through October 21 and at the Washington, D.C., Green Festival in late September.

Ten Thousand Villages Chief Executive Officer, Paul Myers said, "We are honored to receive this award and are excited that so many people embraced the opportunity to cast their vote in support of socially responsible businesses across the country."

Myers continued, "We receive this award on behalf of the artisans who, within very difficult circumstances, create the beautiful, handcrafted gifts and home décor our customers find at Ten Thousand Villages stores across the country. We also receive this award on behalf of our many customers who expect us to provide gifts created in a healthy, green manner."

More than seventy green and fair trade companies that are members of Co-op America's Business Network were nominated by conscientious consumers around the country for the first People's Choice Award for Green Business of the Year.

Green businesses operate in ways that solve, rather than cause, both environmental and social problems. These businesses adopt principles, policies, and practices that improve the quality of life for their customers, employees, communities, and the environment.

Ten Thousand Villages, with a network of more than 100 stores across North America, leads the fair trade movement with 59 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, 2005 totaled more than \$16 million.

For more information about Ten Thousand Villages or to shop online, visit tenthousandvillages.com.