

“People feel good buying jewelry that they know is helping others,” says Sara Green, international volunteer coordinator for MAP.

Of course, people are also attracted to its beauty. To look at the exquisite craftsmanship evident in the jewelry, you would never know the challenges that face the crafters each day. Every piece of jewelry is meticulously crafted with one purpose in mind – to provide a better life for crafters and their families.

Since March, MAP has been helping these Kenyan artists to reach their goal by selling their jewelry and crafts.

“The money from its sale is the only source of income for the women,” says Green.

In Kenya, people with HIV and AIDS, especially women and children, are often abandoned by their families, shunned by society, and forced to live in isolation and poverty.

It is impossible for a woman infected with the virus to find employment, says Esther Mukundi, a Kenyan activist who was determined to change this. She founded the Ecumenical Care and



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Support Women Project which provides services and teaches skills to Kenyan women with HIV and AIDS. Proceeds from the sale of the crafts and jewelry the women make provide income, health care, food, group therapy and other programs to improve their lives.

So far, MAP has sold nearly \$4,000 worth of jewelry and crafts for the Kenyan organization.

“One hundred percent of the

money from the sales of the items is sent to Esther,” says Green.

The first shipment from Mukundi’s Kenya-based organization was sent to MAP in March. It sold out in a matter of days.

“Much of it sold during MAP’s annual meeting for its donors, called Vision Weekend,” says Green.

The partnership between MAP’s Brunswick headquarters and Mukundi’s organization was built by a mutual link with MAP’s Kenyan office. Mukundi, who now holds a master’s degree in community care, first studied HIV and AIDS prevention through a MAP-sponsored program. In 2003, MAP’s Kenyan office endowed Mukundi with seed money to buy a sewing machine and beads. She started teaching jewelry-making to Kenyan women, and her organization was born.

“I will be forever grateful to MAP’s Kenyan office,” Mukundi says.



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