

MAP has since received its second shipment of jewelry and crafts and it is selling well – and without advertising, says Green.

“It’s basically word of mouth,” she says.

People who see the jewelry for the first time comment on the delicate, intricate and obviously labor intensive work. But the women enjoy it.

“The beadwork itself is therapy for the women,” Green says. As the women concentrate on the work, they forget their pain, Mukundi says.

While the women forget their past, they create unforgettable crafts. One

piece of jewelry, recently on display at MAP for its volunteers to view and purchase, was made of hundreds of honey-hued beads threaded and roped together. An oval pendant, the size of a clamshell, dyed in ivory, tan and brown tones complementing the beads, hung from the strand. Incredibly, the pendant was made of cow horn dyed to these rich hues. Beads and pendants are not dyed only to earth tones; others are dyed in colors suggestive of a Caribbean seascape – vibrant greens, pinks, purples and blues.

A few pieces, including a number of bracelets and earrings, are made of cow

bone.

“Cows are a source of wealth. No part of the cow is wasted,” Green says. Like the cow horn, the cow bone is carved, dyed and decorated. Then there are round pendants made of tin and etched with an animal, such as a giraffe or rhino, hung from a piece of leather. Mukundi’s husband Daniel provides the leather scraps from his own leather business.

Although the jewelry has been the main attraction, MAP is also selling purses and wall hangings that the Kenyan women craft. The purses are expertly woven. Some purses remain the color of natural straw; others are dyed in an assortment of colors. Another craft for sale – beautiful Batik wall hangings. The women paint scenes of traditional Kenyan life and native African animals.

Not to be missed is a pendant made of copper-toned metal with a swirling design, like that of a snail’s shell. It is called an ndoro.

“This piece represents the circle of life,” says Green.

An investment in Kenyan crafts and jewelry ensures that the circle of life will remain unbroken for Kenyan women and children. 🇰🇪

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If you are interested in viewing and buying Kenyan jewelry or crafts, call Sara Green at 280-6654 or email her at [sgreen@map.org](mailto:sgreen@map.org). The price of the jewelry ranges from \$5 to \$20, purses from \$25 to \$35. Wall hangings are \$10.