



Giving Globally

Connections to Guatemala, Haiti and Africa inspire three Naples retailers.

Certain Southwest Florida businesses use models that help them make a global impact. Case in point: Each of these ladies established contacts, discovered artists, trained craftswomen, cleared customs and set-up their stores with those connections in mind. Thanks to their efforts, all we have to do is shop, and together we can make a real difference in the lives of people less fortunate.



PENNY RAMBACHER—MIRACLES IN ACTION/BEYOND BEADS

Not all miracles can be attributed to a divine entity or supernatural power. Some need a little human intervention. Penny Rambacher is the catalyst behind Miracles in Action, a non-profit she founded with her mother, Noreen, in December of 2004 after a trip to rural Latin America. Forever changed by the sight of women and children living at a garbage dump, Penny and Noreen responded with a commitment to alleviate poverty by focusing on education, clean water, safe stoves and vocational training for Guatemalan people.

Beyond Beads is one such vocational program. Mayan artisans create jewelry, barrettes, ornaments, key chains and textiles, which Penny brings to the U.S. Sales of the handicrafts provide a livelihood for women

in indigenous communities who are able to work from home while caring for their children. All items are under \$100 and are guaranteed conversation starters—including the orange octopus pin, the charming gecko bracelet or any of the statement necklaces. Top-sellers include the 12-strand multi-colored crystal, stone and glass bead necklace (\$25), and the beaded flying pig, clown fish and flamingo key chains and ornaments (\$8–\$10).

Proceeds from sales fund administrative costs as well as a school building in Guatemala. Retail locations carrying these products include Naples Botanical Gardens, Corkscrew Swamp, Naples and Marco Island Farmers Markets, Silver Eagle, Toucan's World and many more. www.store.miraclesinaction.org