



Improving Women's Lives through Entrepreneurship

Món Quà means gift in Vietnamese. These beautiful handcrafted items are made from 100% natural hemp by women in Cao Bang province in Vietnam. Món Quà is a partnership among the women in four ethnic villages located in an impoverished area of the remote northern mountains. The women's handcraft groups, with the assistance of a local non-profit along with business students and faculty from the University of Nebraska at Omaha are working together to bring you these unique items.

Món Quà's logo represents the four groups of women who work together to create the products. The H'mong women grow the hemp plants and weave it into fabric. The Lo Lo women design and embroider the patches that decorate some of the products. The Nung women dye the fabric using natural and synthetic dyes and sew the hemp zipper pouches. The Money Dao women also embroider decorative patches and hand-sew the hemp fabric into Christmas ornaments.

Món Quà's logo is also a symbol of weaving the hemp thread into fabric as well as representing the terraced, verdant fields where the women spend most of their time. Almost all the women are subsistence farmers, and they raise livestock for their family's consumption.

Món Quà provides gifts of opportunity for the women by ensuring they earn a fair price for their handcrafted items. This enables them to provide for their families, send their children to school, and help ensure a better future, all while preserving traditional skills and techniques.

100% HEMP PRODUCTS

Hand-made, using traditional skills and produced under fair trade conditions ensure a better future for the ethnic minority women.



For more information on these products and the project, follow us on Facebook: facebook.com/MonQuaGifts





H'mong

HEMP FABRIC PRODUCTION

Making hemp fabric takes about seven months of hard work. Women plant the seeds close together so the hemp plants grow straight and thin. The hemp is harvested, dried, and the fibers are peeled from the stalk. The fiber strips are connected end to end by hand, then spun into thread. A traditional wooden loom is used to weave the threads into fabric. The hemp is then boiled in ash water multiple times over a month to soften and whiten it. Finally, the fabric is pressed between a log and stone plate to make it smooth and soft.



Money Dao and Lo Lo

EMBROIDERY

The Money Dao group works in a community center overlooking beautiful mountains. The name of the group comes from the round decorative items worn with their traditional dress. Not only do they embroider patches for some of the products, they also hand sew and embroider all of the Christmas ornaments.

The Lo Lo women's embroidery skills have been passed down for generations. Their traditional designs that decorate the products symbolize the strength of their families.



Nung

FABRIC DYEING AND FINISHING

The Nung women are skilled in dyeing fabric from natural indigo that they grow to make their traditional dark blue clothing. The process involves multiple rounds of soaking and drying the fabric to get the most vibrant colors.

The Nung women are also the "finishers" of Món Quà's products. They sew the hemp zipper pouches and attach the embroidery patches made by the other women's groups.

