

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## ONLINE AUCTION TO BENEFIT RWANDA KNITS PROJECT

*Numerous one-of-a-kind knitted and crocheted garments and two signed Mary Englebright lithographs to be auctioned beginning April 20 at 11pm (eastern time).*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE — Have you ever wondered what happens to the fabulous garments you see in the pages of your favorite knit and crochet magazines? Would you like to own an original Nicky Epstein design? A Gayle Bunn or a Doris Chan? Now, through the Rwanda Knits Project online auction, you can own one of those “star” garments and help knitting cooperatives in Rwanda at the same time! What a perfect Mother’s Day gift!

<p><b>Rwanda Knits Auction</b> <a href="http://www.rwandaknitsauction.org">www.rwandaknitsauction.org</a> April 20, 11pm (eastern) through April 29, 11pm (eastern)</p>
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### The Rwanda Knits Project

Founded in 2003, the Rwanda Knits project provides hand-operated, American-made knitting machines plus technical and business training to low income women in Rwanda to enable them to earn a living through knitting. There are currently over 1,500 women who have learned to use the knitting machines in 17 different women’s cooperatives across the country.

Before Rwanda Knits, most of these women and their teachers were subsistence farmers, dependent on help from family or friends or lived in refugee camps and most of them were either widowed by the genocide or the AIDS epidemic. Rwanda Knits focuses on helping women do not have a reliable source of income, those making less than \$1 per day. Since 2005, the teachers have earned from \$850 to \$570 from both teaching and making items for export.

In May 2006, Rwanda Knits conducted a 4-day business training workshop for members of the 17 cooperatives. Since that time, the cooperatives have practiced their new business skills and secured orders for over 1,000 children’s sweaters, a component of every school’s uniform. Filling these orders will bring over \$500 to each of the 17 cooperatives – but it requires the purchase of yarn.

To fund the yarn purchase, Clement and her non-profit organization, the Fiber and Craft Entrepreneurial Development Center (FA’ CED) (a part of CSR, a 501c3 organization), will be conducting its first online auction of “star” sweaters, original garments by some of your favorite designers including Nicky Epstein, Gayle Bunn, Doris Chan and many others. These garments have been featured in national knitting and crochet magazines. Additionally, famed designer Mary Engelbright, has graciously donated two hand-signed lithographs which will also be auctioned. 50% of the purchase price of each item is tax deductible.

The auction begins at 11pm (eastern) on Friday, April 20 and will conclude at 11pm on Sunday, April 29. This is your chance to be a star by buying a “star.” All proceeds from this auction will go toward purchasing yarn to be distributed to all 17 knitting cooperatives.

Questions or comments, please contact Cari Clement 802-229-9991 or [cari@fiberandcraft.org](mailto:cari@fiberandcraft.org) or visit [www.rwandaknits.org](http://www.rwandaknits.org) or [www.fiberandcraft.org](http://www.fiberandcraft.org) for more information.