



THE COMMUNITY CLOTH

a microenterprise empowering refugee women in Houston

ABOUT US

Around the world people are forced to flee their homes due to war, political violence, exclusion, and the competition for scarce resources in troubled states. Those who have sought refuge in another country are refugees, a status which entitles them to certain rights under international law. Houston is one of the busiest resettlement cities in the US, and the thousands of refugees welcomed to our city each year face a number of barriers. Many arrive with little to no English proficiency and minimal education. Some lived upwards of 18-20 years in refugee camps, with no legal right to employment, and often faced dismal health and housing options.

The Community Cloth is a microenterprise initiative empowering refugee women in Houston. It targets economic, educational and social goals through the provision of seed grants, training, and peer support, and by expanding market opportunities for refugee women artisans. As a collaborative of several refugee-led and refugee-serving organizations, and their supporters, *The Community Cloth* supports women who want to create and sell handmade, indigenous arts and crafts such as woven bags, knitted scarves, embroidered linens, baskets, rugs and more. Through producing and selling their wares, the women have an opportunity to express their culture and heritage, learn new skills that will assist them in transitioning to life in the US, and obtain much-needed supplemental income. All profits from sales go directly to the artisans.

The Community Cloth is about a new start. Purchases of Cloth products help refugee women provide for the basic needs of their families as they work to establish new lives in Houston. Contact us at thecommunitycloth@gmail.com.



THE WOMEN OF THE CLOTH

Above: Karenni women at training.



Middle: Bhutanese Nepali woman shopping for supplies.



Bottom: The Cloth selling at a community festival.