

ABOUT US

In 1981 the Good Shepherd Sisters came to Nongkhai, Thailand. Working at first in the refugee border camps, they gained a good understanding of the local people. Also, having worked in Bangkok since 1965 with the women who had migrated to the city from the rural areas, they understood the pressures on rural families in trying to satisfy their most basic needs. It was clear to the Sisters that these people, disadvantaged in so many ways, had no choices available to them. Lacking an education or training of any sort, employment opportunities were limited.

In response, the Regina Centre was begun in 1986. With the Isan Weaving Centre 8kms outside the town and sewing centres both in Nongkhai town and the village of Huai Sai (45 kms south west) The project is divided into three branch locations in the town, opportunities are provided to women in need of employment and wishing to use the skills learned in the centre, to help themselves.

The women are trained to take responsibility for management in all areas related to craft production. Additionally, emphasis is given to team building and leadership training.

An on-site restaurant and handicraft shop, is also managed by the centre.

- ❖ Providing dignified and creative work.
- ❖ Enabling women to support themselves and provide for their children.
- ❖ Keeping families and communities together.
- ❖ Teaching skills and encouraging leadership.
- ❖ Preserving the local artistic traditions .



Regina Women's Self-Help Centre

NONGKHAI, THAILAND



Regina Women's Self Help Centre

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*Improving lives one
stitch at a time*

Self reliance through the work of our hands



Production

Hand woven cloth of a high quality, is produced in the **Isan Weaving Centre**, where weavers work on traditional looms, maintaining the preservation of unique local patterns, as well as designing contemporary fabrics with instant appeal.

The cloth is then used at the two sites of the **Regina Womens' Self Help Centre**

- Nongkhai town
- Huai Sai village

in the production of a wide range of craft, clothing and accessories.



Opportunities

Women caring for small children in their village homes, may receive hand work to do part time.

As well as earning their living, the women employed, have the opportunity to participate in:

- Design workshops
- Team building
- Celebrations
- Planning meetings
- Annual outing

Other benefits:

- Sponsorship for children
- Savings group
- Medical support



Sales

Orders are received both locally and internationally.

International buyers include the Good Shepherd network with outlets through:

- The Trading Circle Australia
- HandCrafting Justice USA
- Sharing Fair Europe
- Sharing Fair Ireland

Local sales

Sales are sought locally by attending venues and Fairs organized by the:

- government
- women's clubs
- companies
- friends

