



October 1, 2022
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Lydia Rueger Shoaf
lshoaf@friendshipbridge.org
303-641-3510

Guatemalan Artisans Create Gifts that Give Back


*Handmade by Friendship Bridge® products create opportunities for
impoverished women to build better lives*

LAKEWOOD, COLORADO: This holiday season, shoppers can purchase gift items that help rural Guatemalan women overcome poverty and change the trajectory of their future. When you shop [Handmade by Friendship Bridge®](#) online, you'll find a collection of gift items in rich colors, handmade in Guatemala by women artisan entrepreneurs.

Shoppers can find affordable items including [luggage tags](#) made by [Jacinta](#), a Friendship Bridge client who lives in Chimaltenango, Guatemala. Jacinta creates the tags, as well as a wide range of fabric bags and purses, from repurposed *huipiles*—traditional Guatemalan blouses—and other secondhand textiles. Jacinta's husband and children work with her, helping fulfill orders.

Jacinta and other women entrepreneurs in the Handmade by Friendship Bridge® program receive small loans so they can invest back in their businesses. The program also offers technical training and business education.

“My experience with Handmade by Friendship Bridge® has taught me a lot about quality of products, colors and how to combine them, and sizing,” said Jacinta. “Participating in Handmade by Friendship Bridge® trainings has helped us move forward.”



The program is just one of many services offered by Friendship Bridge, a nonprofit that empowers impoverished Guatemalan women to thrive in their home country so they don't have to make the dangerous choice to migrate. To support, click "Shop" at www.friendshipbridge.org. Denver metro residents can make an appointment to shop in person at the in-office showroom, 405 Urban St., Ste. 140, Lakewood, Colo., from 9 a.m. to noon, Monday through Thursday. Call 303-674-0717 or email info@friendshipbridge.org.