

University partnering with store for scholarship funds

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WAYNESBURG - Waynesburg University will partner with Ten Thousand Villages to offer a unique shopping experience to the community during the holiday season.

The store at 68 S. Washington St. will hold its grand opening at 10 a.m. Nov. 10.

Thomas Ribar, Waynesburg University chaplain and remote sale coordinator, said the Ten Thousand Villages sale benefits the artisans by providing a fair-trade profit for their products. In addition, the sale benefits the Waynesburg University Mission Trip Scholarship Fund as Ten Thousand Villages donates the overhead costs for the sale to the University.

In the past six years, the store has generated \$4,500 for Waynesburg University's Mission Trip Scholarship Fund. The fund provides assistance to students who travel domestically or internationally to serve others.

The store will be open Monday through Saturday through Dec. 20.

Store hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Friday; and 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday.

This year marks the seventh year of the university's partnership with Ten Thousand Villages. It is the university's third year to hold the sale at a downtown storefront.

"We hope that the Ten Thousand Villages store contributes to the Waynesburg community by providing an enjoyable holiday shopping experience for folks who want to shop locally and support Waynesburg's businesses," Ribar said. "This year's store will feature the largest selection of Ten Thousand Villages items, for the Waynesburg University remote sale, to date."

With every sale, according to Ribar, the university and members of the community "are contributing to the betterment of life for neighbors around the world."

The store will encompass 100 artisan groups representing more than 30 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. A variety of products such as jewelry, pottery, stationery, toys, wall art, candles and picture frames are available for purchase.

Ten Thousand Villages is part of a worldwide movement determined to practice fair trade. The organization works with artisans in developing countries to provide a market for artisan products which are sold at a fair trade value.

The nonprofit organization is one of more than 300 International Fair Trade Association members in 70 countries. IFAT members agree that fair trade is an alternative approach to conventional international trade. Its mission is to improve the livelihood of disadvantaged people in developing countries and to change unfair structures of international trade. Copyright Observer Publishing Co.