

July 13, 2007

Dear fellow Rotarians,

I've just been referred to your site by a new member to your group, Barbara Beagle, of the Silverdale Rotary Club in Washington State. She suggested I contact you about a potential linkage to a Rotary Club project in Mali, West Africa. We are helping young girls go from begging to businesswomen in 18 months. Our training center in Bamako, Mali is a place where girls learn a skill to get them out of the cycle of begging. They learn sewing, beading, fabric weaving and dyeing, receive literacy training, health and nutrition and small business skills development. They also start savings accounts and have access to microloans at the end of their training.

I'm writing because one of the products we are about to help them export, is hand-dyed fabrics, cut into quilting fat quarters. Below are some photos to give you an idea of what the fabrics look like. They have a pattern woven into the 100% cotton fabric and the girls from our center in Mali hand wax stamp and then dye the colors. We do one fat quarter in multiple colors along with a plain complementary accent color.

You can see a 7 min documentary about the Fabric of Life Foundation's project by clicking here:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K8tQYQKnmS4> and there's a website that tells you more about this project at [www.fabricoflife.org](http://www.fabricoflife.org)

I'm wondering if there's some way for your group to help us link up with other Rotarian quilters to support our project by purchasing the fat quarters. We're just starting our distribution network. Not being a quilter myself, I'm relying on feedback from other quilters who tell me they love the patterns and bright colors. Each fat quarter sells for \$7 and 100% goes back to the school in Africa. It is how the project will be self-sustainable.

I do hope there is some way to create a linkage with your group.

Yours in Rotary,

*Carol* Carol Schillios

Edmonds Daybreakers Rotary Club (Seattle Washington USA)

*Schillios Consulting Group & Fabric of Life Foundation* [www.schillios.com](http://www.schillios.com)

*Help a begging girl become a business woman in 18 months:*

[www.firstgiving.com/carolschillios](http://www.firstgiving.com/carolschillios)

*Watch a 7 minute documentary at:* <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K8tQYQKnmS4>